



October 25, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Whip
2338 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Minority Whip
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
House Assistant Democratic Leader
242 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders of the House of Representatives,

On behalf of AMGA, I am writing to urge you to **pass the Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act of 2017, S. 870, in the House of Representatives.** The CHRONIC Care Act is a bipartisan bill that would improve health outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries living with chronic conditions. We ask that the House pass this important legislation.

AMGA is a trade association leading the transformation of health care in America. Representing multispecialty medical groups and integrated systems of care, we advocate, educate, innovate, and empower our members to deliver the next level of high performance health. More than 175,000 physicians practice in our member organizations, delivering care to one in three Americans.

The CHRONIC Care Act includes a number of policy options that AMGA

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recommends to advance team-based care. For example, the CHRONIC Care Act allows Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) in Track 1 to choose prospective or retrospective attribution. It is important that all MSSP ACOs have the option of prospective assignment so our members know who their patients are, and so they can most effectively manage these populations of patients.

The Senate-passed legislation would also waive the originating site requirement to allow for expanded use of telehealth services for downside-risk ACOs. The legislation would also allow for patient engagement incentives by allowing downside-risk ACOs to provide payments to beneficiaries who receive primary care services in their ACO. We also support provisions in the CHRONIC Care Act to expand supplemental benefits to improve treatment of chronic conditions within the Medicare Advantage (MA) program and the provision to expand telehealth benefits to enrollees in MA. Additionally, the legislation would extend the Medicare Independence at Home Act Demonstration program to test whether providing incentive payments to primary care providers for providing care in a patient's home would reduce costs and increase quality.

We commend the House Energy and Commerce Committee's work to advance policies that are included in the Senate-passed CHRONIC Care Act. Specifically, AMGA is pleased to see the Committee advance the FAST Act of 2017, H.R. 1148. This legislation would expand the definition of "originating site" to locations where stroke evaluations can take place. This would allow for reimbursement for these telehealth services when patients experience a stroke. Additionally, we appreciate the Committee advancing H.R. 3263, which would extend the Medicare Independence at Home Program. We also commend the House Ways and Means Committee for advancing the Increasing Telehealth Access in Medicare Act, H.R. 3727, which would allow MA plans to offer additional telehealth benefits beginning in 2020.

Our members are committed to improving care for those with chronic conditions. It is in that spirit that **we urge you to pass the CHRONIC Care Act of 2017 to improve care for the chronically ill.**

Sincerely,



Jerry Penso, M.D., M.B.A
President and Chief Executive Officer
AMGA

