

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

The Medicare home health benefit delivers essential services to seniors and people with disabilities who are homebound and require skilled nursing or rehabilitative care. Health care that once was only available in a hospital or a physician's office can now be safely, effectively, and efficiently provided in patients' homes by skilled clinicians. Home care is cost-effective, high-quality, and patient-preferred, and home health agencies work every day to deliver critical services to Medicare beneficiaries.

We appreciate CMS's commitment to helping people get the care they need, where they need it. This must include home health services for people with Medicare. As CMS proceeds to develop Medicare home health payment rates for 2025, we urge you to consider the value home health care provides to the Medicare program and its beneficiaries.

We are concerned that CMS recently finalized home health payment methodology that has led to steep cuts, essentially cancelling out market basket updates intended to help Medicare payments keep up with inflation. Under this methodology, Medicare home health payment rates have been stagnant over the past three years, and CMS has indicated that further cuts are planned.

Home health services are a lifeline for seniors, people with disabilities, those with limited mobility, and their family members. Ensuring access to this care should be among CMS's highest priorities.

Thank you for your consideration as you craft home health payment policy for next year.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator