



## National Association for the Support of Long Term Care

November 10, 2020

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brendan Boyle  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Holding  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Marshall, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Phil Roe, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bera, Bucshon, Boyle, Finkenauer, Holding, Marshall, Roe and Ruiz:

On behalf of the members of the National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL), we offer our support of your legislation – the  *Holding Providers Harmless from Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020 (H.R. 8702)*. This important legislation will help Medicare beneficiaries in nursing facilities maintain critical access to rehabilitation therapy and clinical diagnostic services by halting pending Medicare payment cuts resulting from the planned evaluation and management (E/M) code changes slated for implementation on January 1, 2021.

NASL is a trade association representing providers and suppliers of ancillary services to long term and post-acute care (LTPAC) settings. NASL's members include rehabilitation therapy providers that employ physical therapists (PTs), occupational therapists (OTs), and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) who provide therapy services to patients in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) as well as other long term and post-acute care settings. In addition, NASL also represents providers and suppliers of clinical laboratory and portable-x-ray services, as well as providers and suppliers of health information technology (HIT) with full clinical and point-of-care IT systems.

This critical legislation recognizes the importance of allowing significant scheduled pay increases to primary care and others who primarily provide E/M services to take effect while also avoiding the devastating corresponding cuts for physician and non-physician providers, including rehabilitation therapists and portable x-ray suppliers, which will occur as a result of

Medicare's budget neutrality requirements. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it has never been more important to halt the implementation of any payment reductions that will further exacerbate the financial instability of health care provider practices. **Most importantly, is that this legislation will backfill the devastating cuts to care and services that are essential to the nursing facility patients who face a greater exposure and impact of COVID-19. NASL supports H.R. 8702 and its approach for providing two years of much-needed stability for Medicare providers as they continue to strive to meet the needs of patients during this public health emergency.**

Stability in long term care will be essential to recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the critical policy solutions included in your legislation to assist with support for patients and health care providers' practices will be truly impactful. We look forward to continued collaboration with you, your House colleagues, and Congressional leadership to advance H.R. 8702 in the next available legislative package. Should you have any additional questions, please contact Cynthia Morton, NASL Executive Vice President, at [cynthia@nasl.org](mailto:cynthia@nasl.org) or Michael Barnett, NASL Director of Government Affairs, at [michael@nasl.org](mailto:michael@nasl.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Morton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Cynthia K. Morton, MPA  
NASL Executive Vice President