



March 6, 2017

The Honorable Lynn Jenkins
U.S. House of Representatives
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1602

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0505

Dear Representatives Jenkins and Thompson:

On behalf of the more than 115,000 PAs (physician assistants) represented by the American Academy of PAs (AAPA), I am writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 1284, the Medicare Patient Access to Hospice Act.

The current inability of PAs to provide and manage hospice care for Medicare beneficiaries is an outdated roadblock to the continuous, clinically appropriate care that PAs provide. Because of this, Medicare beneficiaries who desire or need hospice care at the end of their lives face delays, disruption of care and denial of medically necessary care covered by Medicare.

Medicare beneficiaries throughout the nation will benefit from this important legislation, which authorizes PAs to provide and manage hospice care. However, as we know, an even greater benefit will be gained by Medicare patients living in rural and other medically underserved communities where a PA may be the sole healthcare professional. The ability of PAs to provide and manage hospice care offers continuity of care at a time when patients and their families are most vulnerable. For Medicare beneficiaries whose principal healthcare professional is a PA, H.R. 1284 provides access to hospice care.

AAPA is very pleased to support the Medicare Patient Access to Hospice Act, and we look forward to working with you to enact it. For further information, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact Tate Heuer, AAPA Vice President, Federal Advocacy, at 571-319-4338 or at theuer@aapa.org.

Thank you for sponsoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Dorn
Chief Executive Officer