

February 2, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr. President 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20500

## Dear President Biden:

We appreciate your focus on improving access and availability of health care services in the home. Americans want to receive care at home rather than a facility. We encourage you to include a commitment to clinical care in the home that goes beyond Medicaid home and community-based services in your budget request to Congress for Fiscal Year 2024. Medicaid services at home are the tip of the spear of what is possible, and we are anxious for your leadership in making the home part of the future of health care.

<u>Moving Health Home (MHH)</u> is a coalition of health care organizations with a bold vision to make the home a site of clinical service. Our members share the belief that the experience during the pandemic has accelerated the day when care in the home is an option for patients.

Clinical care in the home refers to a spectrum of health services provided in the home or place of dwelling outside of a facility, such as hospital-level or acute care, primary care office, skilled nursing and therapy services, and hospice. It can mean a house call from a primary care doctor or nurse, a physical therapy session, a laboratory and diagnostic service, a home infusion, or a full complement of hospital-level services.

We ask that you work to remove regulatory barriers to ensure all patients may choose to receive clinical care in the home and take advantage of the convenient, high-quality care that comes when patients receive home-based care. Importantly, we believe that care in the home contributes to health equity by giving historically disenfranchised populations the option to receive care on their own terms. Providers will be guests in the homes of patients with the institutional aspects of the health care 'system' taken away, which promotes trust and communication.

The United States can no longer lag behind comparable countries in options for patients to receive primary care at home.<sup>1</sup> MHH's recent study shows that a majority (70 percent) of Americans are comfortable receiving care in the home, 73 percent are confident in the quality of receiving care in the home, and a bipartisan majority of adults (73 percent of Democrats and 61 percent of Republicans) say it should be a priority for the federal government to increase access to clinical care in the home.<sup>2</sup> Research confirms

 $<sup>^1\,</sup>https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2022/mar/primary-care-high-income-countries-how-united-states-compares$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://movinghealthhome.org/national-survey



that home-based models are at least as safe as facility-based care and result in improved clinical outcomes, higher rates of patient satisfaction, and reduced health care costs.<sup>3</sup>

In your budget request to Congress for Fiscal Year 2024, we request that you consider including the following:

- 1. Reiterate support for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Acute Hospital Care at Home Program which allows patients needing acute-level care, and their caregivers, to have access to Hospital at Home.
- 2. Commit to skilled nursing facility (SNF) at home models of care that give nursing home-eligible beneficiaries more options as to how and where to recover post-hospitalization.
- 3. Direct CMS to reimburse home-based providers at parity with facility-based providers to allow equal access to care in the home and look at changes to network adequacy standards in private insurance to encourage coverage of home-based care.
- Encourage home-based care in Medicare Advantage through network adequacy standards using current authority to better incentivize clinical care in the home by going beyond existing standards.
- 5. Request that CMS reconsider policy to allow for Acute Kidney Injury patients to receive hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis at home, when medically appropriate and preferred by the patient.
- 6. Ensure home is an option for care in traditional Medicare, which favors facility-based care by removing barriers to improve access to care in the home in areas such as personal care, infusion, labs, dialysis, diagnostics, and primary care all while also addressing workforce issues.

We look forward to continuing our work together to expand access to care in the home for all Americans. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Founder

Moving Health Home

Mista Dishac

CC: Shalanda D. Young, Director, Office of Management and Budget; White House Domestic Policy Council Staff

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.hahusersgroup.org/about-hah/research/