

September 3, 2025

The Honorable John Thune

Senate Majority Leader

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer

Senate Minority Leader

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries

Minority Leader

United States Capitol

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senate Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and House Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the signatories below, we strongly urge you to secure the long-term future of the Acute Hospital Care at Home (AHCaH) waiver program, a critical initiative for Medicare beneficiaries, by including the full 5-year extension in the September government funding package.

The bipartisan, bicameral Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act (S. 2237/H.R. 4313) offers the necessary length of time to give health systems the stability and confidence they need to invest in and scale hospital-at-home programs. Now is the time to act decisively to protect and expand access to this transformative model of care.

The AHCaH program is a continuation of standing, bipartisan policy over the last five years and will not lead to new costs. This innovative model is already proving to improve outcomes, lower costs, and meet patients where they are. Additionally, it contributes to patient choice by giving patients the option to receive care on their own terms. The AHCaH program also has the rare combination of lower spending, shorter lengths of stay, high patient and caregiver satisfaction, and high quality. It deploys innovative technology and a workforce eager to treat patients where they live.

Americans <u>want home</u> to be the center of their health. Federal flexibilities, such as the AHCAH waiver, allowed hospitals to do just that. Extending the waiver again is not just a policy choice; it's a critical step toward transforming how care is delivered in this country, creating an important option for patients, caregivers, and providers. A five-year extension creates the certainty hospitals need to confidently invest and innovate—turning promising demonstrations into sustainable, scalable care models.

Another extension of the waiver effectively builds the bridge from demonstration to a more permanent model by giving more certainty to those hospitals currently on the sidelines waiting for regulatory clarity. The evidence is mounting, and another extension will continue the progress and expand participation. As mentioned in <u>previous letters</u>:

• The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <u>report to Congress</u> on the program found that patients in AHCAH had lower mortality rates, lower readmissions on many of the DRGs, lower spending post-discharge, and positive patient and provider experiences with the program.



- A <u>study</u> published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* found that the mean cost was lower for hospital-at-home care (\$5,081) than for acute hospital care (\$7,480). The study reviewed whether treatment in a hospital-at-home model substituted for treatment in an acute care hospital. Not only was treatment efficacious, 69 percent of patients preferred hospital-at-home care. Patients treated in the hospital-at-home program also had a shorter length of stay.
- A <u>Health Affairs study</u> found achieved savings of 19 percent over costs for patients receiving care from hospital at home programs. These savings were from a lower average length-of-stay and use of potentially fewer unnecessary services.
- A <u>study</u> published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* found that a hospital-at-home program was almost \$6,000 lower in costs than for inpatient patients.

Hospital at home is strongly supported by the evidence, the patients, caregivers and providers involved in the program. A long-term extension in September would solidify the evidence base, and allow more seniors to have the option to experience care at home. Please reach out to any of the signatories below with any questions.

Sincerely,

AARP

Advanced Imaging Services

Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)

AdventHealth

Advocate Health

Alliance for Connected Care

Allina Health

American Association for Homecare

American Association on Health and Disability

American Telemedicine Association

Anderson Medical Services LLC

Association of American Medical Colleges

ATA Action

Atrium Health

Azodha

Baptist Health of Northeast Florida

Baptist Health South Florida

BDSRA Foundation

Beth Israel Lahey Health

Biofourmis

Blessing Health System

Boston Medical Center

BPC Action

Breathe Better Rehab LLC

BrightStar Franchising, LLC

Care New England



Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)

Center for Telehealth, University of Mississippi Medical Center

Center to Advance Palliative Care

Chorus (LyfLynks, Inc.)

ChristianaCare

Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (CTAC)

College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)

Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals

Connected Home Living

CopilotIQ

Corcoran Consulting Group

Corstrata, Inc.

Current Health

Direct Mobile Imaging LLC & US Mobile Imaging LLC

DispatchHealth

DocGo

Exiges Diagnostics, LLC

Fairview Health Services

Harris Health

Health First, Inc.

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)

HealthPartners

Henry Ford at Home

Hicuity Health Inc.

Home Care Association of America

Homestyle Direct

Hope for HIE

Inbound Health

Intermountain Health

K&A Radiologic Technology Services, Inc

KJ Solutions LLC

KMA Service LLC

Lakeland Regional Health

Lakeshore Foundation

Lakewood Health System

Lee Health System, Inc.

Lifepoint Health

Lionmountain Consulting

MaineGeneral Health

Maribel Health

Marshfield Clinic Health System

Mass General Brigham

MedArrive, Inc



Meridian Medical Services, Inc.

Minnesota Hospital Association

MitoAction

Mobile Images Acquisition, LLC.

Mount Sinai Health System

Moving Health Home

National Alliance for Caregiving

Neteera

Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies

Neurobehavioral Systems, Inc.

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

Nomadxray.com

Northwestern Medicine

Novant Health

Nursing Liaisons Inc.

NYU Langone Health

Origin Healthcare

Orlando Health

PDI HEALTH

Peace of Mind, Inc

Penn state health

PM Healthcare Consulting, LLC

Portable Health Solutions

Precision Wound Care Solutions

Prisma Health

Procle Healthworks

QMX Mobile Health

Quality Medical Imaging of Nevada

Right at Home

Roper St. Francis Healthcare

Rosarium Health

RTLK, Inc. dba Home Instead

RxHomeTest

Saint Francis Health System (Tulsa, OK)

SCP Health

SENA Health

Shields at Home

Society of Hospital Medicine

Spectrum Psychological Services

St. Bernards Healthcare

St. Luke's Health System

Stanford Health Care

Stanford Medicine Children's Health



STXBP1 Foundation SUNY-Upstate University Hospital Synchronous Mental Health Tampa General Hospital telehealth.org

Texas Health Resources

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

tMED - The Massachusetts Telemedicine Coalition

Transformative Healthcare

TridentCare

Trualta

UCHealth

UltraMobile Imaging, Inc.

UMass Memorial Health

University of Chicago Medicine

University of Michigan Health

University of Mississippi Medical Center, Center for Telehealth and Emerging Technologies

University of Rochester Hospital at Home

URAC

Validic

Valley Health System

Valley Regional

Virginia Commonwealth University Health System

Virtua Health

WellLink Health Alliance

WellSky

Yale New Haven Health System