

For Immediate Release

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Contact: AHCAPressOffice@ahca.org

[\(202\) 898-2814](tel:(202)898-2814)

Long Term Care Profession Commends Bipartisan, Bicameral Effort to Repeal Therapy Caps

Washington, D.C. — The American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) President and CEO Mark Parkinson today issued the following statement regarding the bipartisan, bicameral policy agreement on repealing Medicare therapy caps:

“AHCA/NCAL applauds the bipartisan and bicameral efforts of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee to advance a framework to repeal the Medicare Part B outpatient therapy caps once and for all.

“These caps, first enacted 20 years ago have been historically problematic, requiring Congressional patches periodically which create a cloud of uncertainty for the residents we care for, and jeopardizes the success of recent broader patient-centered quality initiatives and value-based payment (VBP) models.

“The proposed legislative framework to repeal the therapy caps demonstrates that the committees have listened to and acted upon the concerns and recommendations offered by AHCA/NCAL.

“We are encouraged that the proposed policy appears to permanently resolve this long-standing problem and will assure the timely and uninterrupted beneficiary access to necessary outpatient therapy services.

“Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) commonly provide Part B therapy to long-term residents, or to non-residents such as persons living in an adjoining assisted living residence. In 2015, nearly 900,000 Medicare beneficiaries received Part B therapy services from a SNF provider. Most of these residents have multiple chronic conditions and physical impairments, and many require skilled physical, occupational, and speech therapy services at times to restore or maintain their ability to walk, eat, speak, or perform other daily activities – in short – to live a quality life.

“We look forward to working with Congress to advance this framework into a permanent solution to repeal the therapy caps.”

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ABOUT AHCA/NCAL

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represents more than 13,500 non-profit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute centers and homes for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of the millions of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please visit www.ahca.org or www.ncal.org.