



December 1, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, & Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the four national hospice leaders, the National Partnership for Healthcare & Hospice Innovation (NPHI), Leading Age, the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) we urge Congress to take action to prevent an up to 4% Medicare payment cut scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2023. As you know, the Statutory PAYGO sequester requires that mandatory spending and revenue legislation not increase the federal budget deficit over a 5- or 10-year period. If it does, cuts are triggered that impact, among other budgetary items, Medicare payments to hospice providers. **We appreciate that in previous years Congress has not allowed the Statutory PAYGO cuts to take effect, and we urge Congress to again act to prevent these reductions from occurring.**

Allowing these reimbursement cuts to go into effect in the midst of historically high inflation and the continued impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency will have detrimental impacts on access to end-of-life care for Medicare beneficiaries and on providers. Due to Congressional inaction, a 2 percent Medicare sequestration payment cut already went into effect on July 1. This happened as hospice and palliative care providers continue to grapple with unrelenting workforce shortages and unprecedented overhead costs. In addition to these extraordinary challenges, hospice providers rely disproportionately on Medicare payments to sustain their operations given those at the end-of-life are typically Medicare beneficiaries. Now is not the time to impose additional burdens on hospices and their ability to provide individuals with a dignified and comfortable experience at the end of their lives.

Despite these challenges, our members will continue to innovate to serve patients and families to the best of their abilities. Congress must recognize their efforts and the potential consequences of its failure to act. We urge you to protect access to high-quality end-of-life care for all Americans and to prevent additional Medicare payment cuts via any appropriate legislative vehicle prior to the end of the year.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. We look forward to continuing to work with you. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the point of contact for each of our organizations: Mollie Gurian, Vice President, Home Based and HCBS Policy, LeadingAge, mgurian@leadingage.org; Davis Baird, Director of Government Affairs, Hospice, NAHC, dbaird@nahc.org; Logan Hoover, Vice President, Policy and Government Relations, NHPCO, lhoover@nhpco.org; and Ethan McChesney, Policy Director, NPHI, emcchesney@hospiceinnovations.org.



Sincerely,

LeadingAge

National Association for Home Care and Hospice

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation