

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Preserving Access to Rehabilitation Hospitals

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in expressing our concerns about disproportionate proposals affecting rehabilitation hospitals and hospital-based rehabilitation units.

Rehabilitation hospitals and hospital-based rehabilitation units provide critically important medical rehabilitation, therapy, and rehabilitative nursing care to hundreds of thousands of patients with conditions that require intensive rehabilitation. These hospitals and units afford patients with the opportunity for a quick recovery so they can resume active, productive, and high quality lifestyles in their homes and communities.

Since 2004, Medicare's expenditures for rehabilitation hospital services have remained essentially flat. As there has not been growth in rehabilitation hospital spending, legislative proposals containing disproportionate cuts or policy changes will do little to contain cost increases or reduce the federal deficit. Dramatically reducing funding inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and units will only serve to cut access to these vital services.


We understand the need to reduce the federal budget deficit. However, reductions should be targeted at areas with steep cost increases and not be achieved at the expense of unwarranted and disproportionate cuts to rehabilitation hospitals and units, diminishing patients' access to care and services.

If you would like more information or would like to join us in this letter, please contact Rachael Bohlander in Mr. LoBiondo's office at x56572 or Ann Jablon in Mr. Neal's office at x55601.

Sincerely,



Frank A. LoBiondo
United States Congress



Richard E. Neal
United States Congress

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chair
House Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways & Means
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chair
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Camp, Chairman Upton, Ranking Member Levin and Ranking Member Waxman:

America's rehabilitation hospitals and hospital-based rehabilitation units provide critically important medical rehabilitation, therapy, and rehabilitation nursing care to hundreds of thousands of patients with conditions such as strokes, neurological impairments, spinal cord injuries, or traumatic injuries that require intensive rehabilitation. Rehabilitation hospitals and units provide patients with the opportunity for a quick recovery so they can resume active, productive, and high quality lifestyles in their homes and communities.

Care and services provided by rehabilitation hospitals and units is a covered benefit under Medicare and is paid for through a payment system established specifically for these services. As a result of prior legislative and policy decisions implemented by Congress and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that imposed significant payment reductions and process changes to the way Medicare covers and pays for rehabilitation hospital services, Medicare expenditures for these services have been essentially flat since 2004—there has not been a rehabilitation hospital spending “growth problem.” Therefore, we would be highly concerned with any legislative proposals containing disproportionate cuts or policy changes intended to dramatically reduce funding resources for, or patients' access to, inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and units.

We understand the need to reduce the federal budget deficit, but strongly believe that such reductions should not be achieved at the expense of unwarranted and disproportionate cuts to rehabilitation hospitals and units or diminishing patients' access to their care and services. We respectfully request your continued support for rehabilitation hospitals and the essential services they provide.

Respectfully,

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable John Boehner
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi