

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2018

Administrator Seema Verma
U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Verma:

We write in strong support of Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and to inquire about the status of the proposed rule issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on August 2016 (CMS-4168-P), that would revise and update current PACE requirements.

As you know, PACE is a proven care model delivering high-quality, comprehensive, integrated and coordinated community-based care to both Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries 55 years of age or older, who meet the criteria for a nursing home level of care, but wish to live at home. At present, there are 123 PACE organizations operating with 250 centers in 31 states, serving over 45,000 elders and those living with disabilities every day. Multiple studies show that people receiving care from PACE organizations live longer, experience better health, have fewer hospitalizations and spend more time living at home than those receiving care through other programs. Additionally, PACE has already incorporated many of the reforms promoted by Medicare, including coordinated care and integrated financing, and has proven to be a good value to taxpayers, while increasing the quality of life for many of our nation's elders, persons living with disabilities, and their families.

However, the existing regulatory framework for PACE is over a decade old and in need of reform to allow for maximum program efficiencies. The necessary changes include: (1) allowing PACE organizations to include community physicians as part of their hallmark interdisciplinary teams (IDT); (2) using nurse practitioners and physician assistants as primary care providers, which would be cost saving and improve quality of care; (3) providing services in settings other than the PACE Center, and; (4) configuring the IDT to meet the needs of individual participants. The proposed rule would provide PACE with badly needed operational flexibility. We strongly urge CMS to prioritize promulgating a final rule soon so that PACE programs may be afforded the operational flexibility needed to expand and serve more frail seniors and those living with disabilities.

Thank you in advance for your timely response to our concerns.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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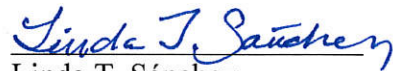
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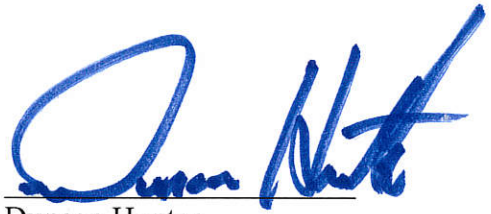
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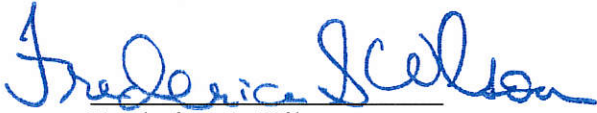
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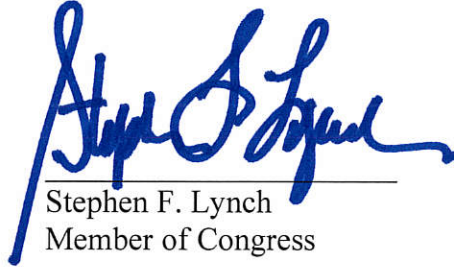
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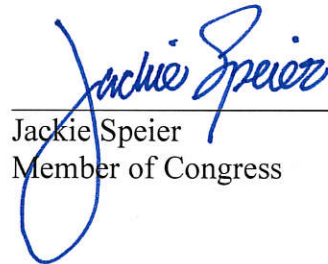
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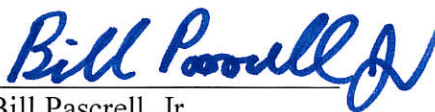
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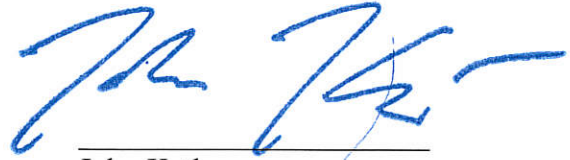
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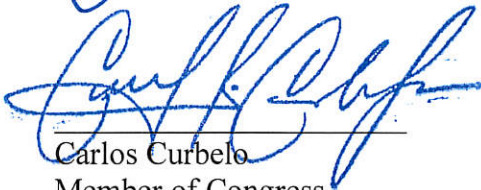
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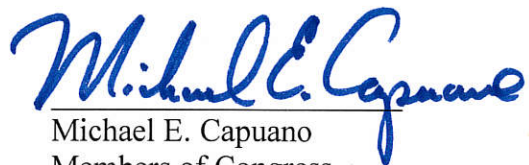
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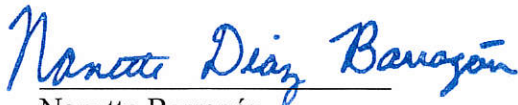
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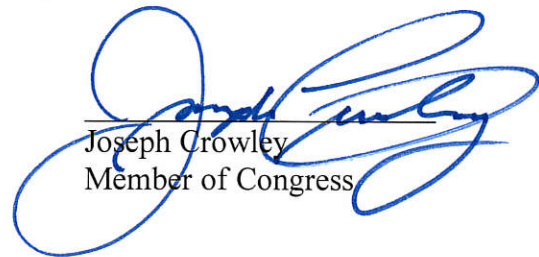
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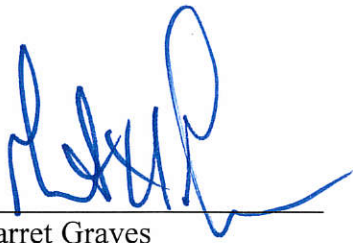
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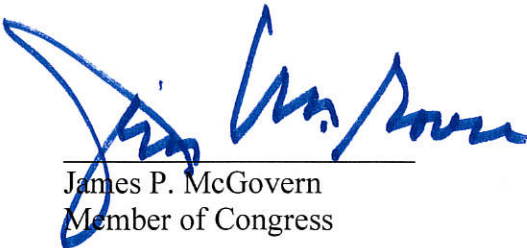
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