

## House Bill Contains Deep, Indiscriminate Cuts of \$57 Billion to Home Health Providers Over Next 10 Years...

The following cuts in the following sections of the House bill, as scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), will negatively affect home health and hospice providers:

**Sec. 1153: Set the home health market basket index update at 0% for 2010 — \$7.7 billion cut.**

**Sec. 1154: Rebase home health payment rates in 2011 with a 5% reduction to home health agencies if the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is not able to implement full rebasing in 2011 — \$34.2 billion cut.**

**Sec. 1155: Incorporate a “productivity adjustment” in calculation of the home health market basket update, beginning in 2011 — \$14.9 billion cut.**

**Total Home Health Cuts: Approximately \$57 billion.**

Additional sections (below) in the House bill will affect home health providers as well but the CBO couldn't score them. Sec. 1191: Telehealth provision is unspecified for the Health and Human Services secretary to determine.

Sec. 1152: Post-acute care services payment reform plan and bundling pilot program.

Sec. 1637: Participating physician requirement (certifying physician must be Medicare participating accepting a claim assignment under Medicare Part B).

Sec. 1639: Physician face-to-face requirement. The House bill language states, “in the case of a certification or recertification made by a physician after January 1, 2010, prior to making such certification the physician had a face-to-face encounter (including through use of telehealth) with the individual.”

**For hospice, Sec. 1103(f) of the House bill would include a productivity adjustment as part of calculation of the market basket update, beginning in fiscal year 2010, resulting in a cut of \$9.8 billion over 10 years.**

The House Ways and Means Committee, the House Energy and Commerce (Diane DeGette is a member) and Education and Labor Committees, have all passed versions of the bill and it is expected to go to the full House in September.

## **Talking Points**

The message to bring to lawmakers is, "I support the goal of health care for all. However, the goal should not come at the expense of frail elderly and disabled homebound Medicare beneficiaries receiving home health services. Home health services preserve independence, keep families together, and save Medicare dollars by keeping beneficiaries out of hospitals and nursing homes. Please oppose home health cuts."

[Ensure Adequate and Appropriate Payment for Medicare Home Health Services](#)

## **Charts**

[Percentage of HHA with Negative Margins based on the America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009](#)

[Medicare Home Health Projected Losses Based on the America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009](#)

[Percentage of HHA with Negative Margins based on the America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 by Congressional District Served](#)

## **Study**

[New Report: Home Health Care Saves Billions for Medicare](#)

## **Senate Letter**

[View the Senate Sign On Letter Opposing Home Health Care Cuts](#)

## **House Letter**

[View the House Sign On Letter Opposing Home Health Care Cuts](#)