

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Protect Seniors from the Medicare Cliff!

Join us as an original cosponsor of the Medicare Beneficiary Skilled Nursing Protection Act

September 18, 2002

Dear Colleague:

On October 1, skilled nursing facilities across the nation will be faced with a devastating cut of \$1.7 billion. This reduction in Medicare reimbursements comes at a critical time, when seniors' access to quality long-term care is in jeopardy and we have widespread health care staffing shortages.

It is imperative that Congress act immediately to stop the scheduled 10 percent Medicare cut for skilled nursing facilities. In 1999 and 2000, Congress passed legislation to restore excessive cuts to skilled nursing care. This funding restoration has enabled skilled nursing facilities to provide Medicare beneficiaries with life-enhancing and life saving services. Yet on September 30, the Medicare relief we worked so hard to enact will expire.

The Medicare Beneficiary Skilled Nursing Protection Act will extend the add-ons for three years, through 2005, to allow the Administration time to implement an adequate prospective payment system (PPS) for skilled nursing facilities. If we do not act, facilities providing skilled nursing services to Medicare beneficiaries will lose nearly \$35 per patient per day in 2003, \$71 in 2004, and \$73 in 2005. Unless Congress responds, the Medicare funding shortfalls for skilled nursing services will total \$6.8 billion over the next three years. These cuts will erode access to quality health care for Medicare beneficiaries who depend on skilled nursing services.

Please join us as an original cosponsor of the Medicare Beneficiary Skilled Nursing Protection Act. For more information, or to cosponsor, please call Susan Lexer (Rep. Allen x5-6116) or Shannon Darcy (Rep. Capito x5-2711).



Rep. Tom Allen
Member of Congress



Rep. Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

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