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July 12, 2017

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RE: Support for provisions included in H.R. 3178, Medicare Part B Improvement Act of 2017

Dear Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Neal, Chairman Walden, and Ranking Member Pallone:

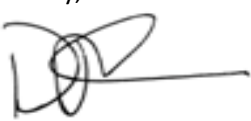
The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) is a professional organization of more than 6,000 members. Our membership includes allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health and related health care professionals who focus on research and treatment of allergic and immunologic diseases.

On behalf of the AAAAI, I write in strong support of sections 101 and 102 of H.R. 3178, which would provide a temporary transition payment for home infusion therapy and would extend the Medicare Patient IVIG Access Demonstration Project. Our members are involved in the treatment of individuals with primary immunodeficiency (PI) diseases – a group of more than 300 genetic or intrinsic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. Infusions of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) replacement therapy provide antibody replacement for patients with PI diseases. Board certified allergists/immunologists (AI) are the medical specialty trained to treat this rare disease patient population.

We appreciate your longtime leadership in ensuring Medicare beneficiaries with PI diseases have access to the Medicare Part B home infusion benefit, which provides Medicare PI patients the choice to avoid the hospital when their immunity is at the lowest. Both these provisions help to ensure our patients continued access to their needed therapies.

Again, thank you for your work to improve the quality of life for our patients who struggle with PI diseases. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that Medicare PI patients have access to treatment at all sites of care, including the home setting.

Sincerely,



David B. Peden, MD, MS, FAAAAI
AAAAI President