



Supporting Quality Health Care Services at Home

Special Alert

June 26, 2002

House GOP Members Urging Delay of Medicare Bill Until After July 4 Recess

Reports today state that the House GOP members continue to internally debate the new Medicare bill and have not yet gained the necessary number of votes to pass it before it goes to the House Rules Committee.

According to this morning's *CQ Daily Monitor*, "Two major issues that have raised concern among some rank-and-file Republicans are a gap in coverage for senior prescription drug expenses and whether to begin charging a 1.5 percent copayment for home health patients, which is in the Ways and Means bill but not the Energy and Commerce version."

The article also states that there is a "list of other issues that have prevented sponsors from moving to the Rules Committee, even if they could resolve the differences between the two committee versions."

Nonetheless, according to *Congress Daily AM*, House Speaker Hastert (R-IL) and his aides continue to insist that the bill will be brought to the House Rules Committee this week and then to the House floor for final approval.

Many members have informed AAHomecare that they are making phone calls and sending letters to Congress, as well as getting beneficiaries involved in the process.

AAHomecare encourages members to continue contacting representatives and to take advantage of the July 4 recess by making appointments to meet with Congressional representatives while they are home in their districts to discuss the effects of competitive bidding and a possible copay for home health.

Talking points, position papers, and letters that members have written are available in special sections on competitive bidding and the home health copay on the home page of www.aahomecare.org.

AAHomecare will include a full update of this week's legislative activities in the June 28 edition of the *Update* newsletter.