



Supporting Quality Health Care Services at Home

Special Alert

April 25, 2001

Senate/House Budget Resolution Conferees Consider Reserves to Eliminate 15% Cut: ACTION NEEDED!

Today, Senate and House conferees will negotiate differences between the Senate and House budget resolutions. AAHomecare needs you to call the conferees to encourage them to support Senator Susan Collins's amendment to reserve funds for the elimination of the 15 percent cut in the home health benefit.

Background:

The budget resolution determines the overall funding guidelines for governmental departments for fiscal year 2002. Although the budget resolution is non-binding, it establishes a frame of reference for the key authorizing committees as they determine the details for the FY 2002 budget. (The budget will most likely be finalized later this fall.)

Several weeks ago, the Senate passed by an overwhelming majority (99-1) a home health amendment introduced by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME). Her amendment reserved sufficient funds in the budget resolution to eliminate the Medicare home health 15 percent cut. (The funds reserved approximately \$13 billion for its elimination.) The House version requested that the Congress and Administration work together to eliminate the cut but did not reserve the funding.

Action:

As the Senate and House begin to negotiate the differences within the budget resolutions, it will be important to ensure that Senator Collins's amendment remains in the final joint budget resolution.

***Please note that, although Senator Collins's amendment will be a significant victory to the home health industry, it still requires the passage of legislative language later this year to completely eliminate the 15 percent cut!

To contact the health care legislative assistant at the Senator's office call (202) 224-3121 and request their support of "Senator Collins's home health amendment in the joint Senate/House budget resolution." Please see the list of Senate/House conferees listed below.

Senate/House Conferees:

Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM)

Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA)

Sen. Don Nickles (R-OK)

Sen. Christopher Bond (R-MO)

Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND)

Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-SC)

Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-MD)

Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX)

Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)

Rep. Jim Nussle (R-IA)

Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

Rep. John Sununu (R-NH)

If you should have any questions, please contact Mara Benner at (703) 836-6263. Thank you in advance for your help!