



1520 High Street
Des Moines, IA 50309-3110
iowahomecare.org

December 4, 2009

The Honorable Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee On Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Senator Grassley,

I'm contacting you today to urge your assistance concerning an issue of great significance to Iowa's dedicated home care nurses and other providers of valuable and needed in-home health care services to Iowans. The Iowa Alliance in Home Care respectfully requests your support to have the Senate Finance committee report back to the Senate, in response to a motion with instructions, a modified H.R. 3590 bill that does not include cuts in Medicare payments to home health agencies totaling \$42.1 billion.

Your urgent action is critically important to ensure that access to quality health care services delivered in the home setting is not compromised. Proposed cuts in Medicare home health reimbursement would be devastating as most of Iowa's home care providers (i.e. public health departments, small businesses) rely largely or exclusively on Medicare and Medicaid payment to justify their operations which includes employment for thousands of Iowans. Insufficient Medicaid home health reimbursement, recently worsened by Governor Culver's ATB state budget cuts, has been reduced by an additional 5% effective 12/1/2009. In short, ensuring that Medicare home health payments are not reduced further is essential to avoid the resulting limited or no access to home health services access for many Iowans who prefer to receive services in their own home.

Senator, thank you for your past home health care support. We would greatly appreciate your immediate attention to this most critical of needs for our Iowa home health care community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mark S. Wheeler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Wheeler" clearly legible.

Mark Wheeler, Executive Director