



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 28, 2016

Media Contact: Katie Riggs

703-548-0019

## **Visiting Nurse Associations of America Thanks Reps. Price and McGovern for Introducing Legislation to Delay Pre-Claim Review**

*Bipartisan legislation will delay Pre-Claim Review for at least a year and require the Department of Health and Human Services to collect detailed information about its impact*

**WASHINGTON** - The Visiting Nurse Associations of America (VNAA) today applauded Representatives Tom Price, MD (R-GA) and Jim McGovern (D-MA) along with introductory cosponsors Kenny Marchant (R-TX), and Mac Thornberry (R-TX) for introducing the “Pre-Claim Undermines Seniors’ Health (PUSH) Act” (H.R. 6226). The bill would require the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to delay its Home Health Pre-Claim Review demonstration program for at least a year so that a comprehensive analysis of the program’s impact on home health services can be completed.

Earlier this month, CMS announced that it was delaying the implementation of Home Health Pre-Claim Review in Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan and Texas where it was scheduled to begin later this year and into 2017. However, the project continues to operate in Illinois and could be reinitiated by CMS in other states in future months. The proposed bill imposes a one-year moratorium on the pre-claim review demonstration in all states, including Illinois, where the demonstration was implemented on August 3.

“We thank Representatives Price and McGovern for their leadership in protecting home healthcare access for millions of America’s seniors,” said Tracey Moorhead, CEO and President of VNAA. “The disastrous rollout of the program in Illinois has clearly established that the current Pre-Claim Review demonstration should be discontinued before it seriously impacts patient health. We’ve already received multiple reports from providers across the state citing serious technical failures and improper claims denials, which have resulted in delays to the delivery of timely clinical services.”

In addition to delaying Pre-Claim Review’s implementation, the proposed bill also requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to compile and submit to Congress a comprehensive evaluation of the program’s impact in Illinois that will detail how Medicare beneficiaries, home health providers, physicians, and other stake holders were affected in the initial rollout. The report is also required to include a list of alternative measures that can be taken to tackle Medicare fraud that don’t involve a nationwide implementation of Pre-Claim Review for home health services.

“VNAA remains committed to working with CMS, HHS, and other stakeholders to find ways to reduce fraud and abuse within the Medicare system, however, we do not believe Pre-Claim Review is the most effective approach to achieve that goal,” said Moorhead. “More red tape that potentially jeopardizes patient care is not the answer. That’s why we need to delay Pre-Claim Review until better alternatives can be agreed upon.”

####

*VNAA is a national trade association that supports, promotes and advocates for mission-driven providers of home health, hospice and palliative care. VNAA’s members provide cost-effective and compassionate home health and hospice care to the nation’s most vulnerable individuals, particularly the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Learn more at [www.vnaa.org](http://www.vnaa.org).*