



September 10, 2015

Chairman Fred Upton
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Frank Pallone
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subcommittee Chairman Joe Pitts
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Gene Green
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton, Subcommittee Chairman Pitts, Ranking Member Pallone, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Green:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA), a nonprofit organization that unites more than 2,300 member organizations nationwide with the goal of providing optimal care and services to individuals confronting dementia, and to their caregivers and families, I am writing in support of H.R. 2446 which would require the use of electronic visit verification (EVV) for personal care services furnished under the Medicaid program. The legislation will soon be considered by your committee.

With seventy percent of persons with Alzheimer's disease cared for in the home, personal and home care attendants are essential members of the care team in providing necessary services and giving the family assistance and relief to continue to care for the patient. Home care aide services are integral in helping those living with dementia maintain their independence and delaying nursing home placement.

Persons with dementia, however, often suffer from cognitive decline and can be vulnerable targets for elder fraud and abuse. EVV can act as a quality check and increase accountability of home health aides. Requiring EVV will ensure that the proper home care aide is making the visit and that the verified person is allowed in the home.

EVV will also help avoid "phantom visits" where an aide fails to show up for an appointment. Those with cognitive difficulties might not be able to fully comprehend that a visit did not occur. In these cases, not only are care needs not met, the absence will likely go unreported and the Medicaid program will be billed.

EVV pilot projects have demonstrated saving scarce Medicaid resources. In Dade County Florida, which mandates EVV, Medicaid saw \$19 million in savings during first year of implementation. Texas has seen a 5-7% cost reduction in just the first four months of the programs roll-out.

Given that implementation of EVV can enhance safety while lowering fraud and saving resources, AFA supports requiring use of EVV for Medicaid home care aide visits and urges the House Energy and Commerce Committee to approve the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C.J. Fuschillo, Jr." in a cursive style.

Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr.
President and CEO