



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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March 7, 2017

The Honorable Edward Markey  
United States Senate  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Markey, Portman, Bennet, and Cornyn:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and of the nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students we represent, thank you for introducing the “Independence at Home Act” (S. 464). This bipartisan legislation seeks to make the Independence at Home (IAH) model of care a permanent addition to Medicare, ensuring that chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries – especially those with advanced illness – receive high-quality, person-centered, home-based medical care.

Osteopathic physicians focus on prevention by gaining a deeper understanding of our patients’ lifestyles and environments. Partnering with our patients in their care is at the heart of our whole-person, collaborative approach to medicine. IAH allows Medicare beneficiaries with two or more chronic conditions to receive home-based primary care. Such a model allows for health care providers to spend more time with their patients and to perform assessments in their home, providing them with a better understanding of the patient’s overall condition and provide more personalized treatment decisions. Such partnership with patients has decreased unnecessary hospitalizations, ER visits and nursing home use. More importantly, it allows Medicare beneficiaries to remain at home where they are most comfortable.

Again, thank you for introducing this important legislation. The AOA and our members stand ready to assist you in securing its enactment into law.

Sincerely,

Boyd R. Buser, DO,  
President