



# WHCA/WiCAL

For Immediate Release  
July 7, 2011

Contact: John Vander Meer  
608.257.0125

## **WHCA/WiCAL Applauds WI Congressional Leaders for Signing CMS Letter**

*Reps. Baldwin, Duffy, Kind, Moore, Petri and Ribble Call for the Rejection of  
Proposed Medicare Cuts that Threaten Jobs, Access to Skilled Nursing Care*

MADISON - The Wisconsin Health Care Association (WHCA) today praised Members of the Wisconsin Congressional delegation, including: U.S. Representatives Tammy Baldwin (D), Sean Duffy (R), Ron Kind (D), Gwen Moore (D), Tom Petri (R), and Reid Ribble (R) for their support of the bipartisan letter voicing concern to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) about a proposal that would cut reimbursement to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) immediately by 12.8 percent for Fiscal Year 2012.

“We thank these Members of Congress for carrying our voice in Washington and for their continued efforts to ensure the growing needs of our nation’s most vulnerable frail, elderly and disabled are protected,” said Tom Moore, WHCA’s Executive Director. “Their recognition of the potential devastation this proposal could inflict on Wisconsin’s nursing facilities, the quality of care they provide and the number of jobs they contribute could make the difference in finding a more measured approach to their Medicare payment system.”

In an unprecedented move in late April, CMS proposed a drastic, immediate cut of more than \$4 billion to the nation’s skilled nursing facilities. The agency’s proposal is based on less than one year of data when, historically, CMS bases decisions on a full year of data. If the proposal were adopted, nursing facilities would be forced to make significant operational changes, putting more than 100,000 jobs in multiple professions at risk.

WHCA, and its national organization, the American Health Care Association (AHCA) have called on CMS to slow down the process and follow its traditional practices of examining all the data before implementing a reduction to nursing facilities. The associations aim to help CMS reach its goal of budget neutrality within the Medicare payment system, but through a more measured, targeted approach by dispersing the reduction over multiple years.

The bipartisan [letter](#) sent to CMS Administrator Donald Berwick and co-signed by more than 150 U.S. Representatives including Baldwin, Duffy, Kind, Moore, Petri and Ribble states:

“Financial stability is critical to ensuring sustainable, quality long-term care for Medicare beneficiaries in nursing facilities. The men and women who work in these facilities, approximately 3.1 million Americans, are responsible for serving some of the frailest members of our society. We must ensure that the services they provide to Medicare beneficiaries are preserved.

“On behalf of our constituents who receive care in skilled nursing facilities, we request the agency take a more measured approach and delay any proposed cuts pending a review of data from a full year. If, after reviewing additional data, CMS ultimately determines that comprehensive information supports the need to adjust payments to SNFs, then it should follow its common practice of implementing the reduction over a period of two or three years in order to reduce the potential impact on nursing facility services.”

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