

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2012

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

We are writing to express our concern with the implementation of the Medicare 25% rule as it affects Long Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs) and its impact on both patients and providers of care. LTCHs are an important source of care for high acuity patients who need extended periods of treatment.

Current law calls for full implementation of the 25% rule to begin on and after July 1, 2012. However, Congress has previously taken multiple actions to delay the implementation of this rule and achieve the desired cost savings by other means in light of concerns about the breadth and design of the 25% rule. While it is important to control costs, we remain concerned that the 25% rule is poorly designed and will not achieve the intended effects. Instead, this policy will limit beneficiaries' access to appropriate care in an indiscriminate fashion.

We ask that you show every consideration to exercising the authority given to you by statute to extend the delay in implementation of the 25% rule until the end of the calendar year, providing Congress with time to consider its effectiveness, the potential consequences, and alternative solutions to improve the efficiency of the post-acute care reimbursement model. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

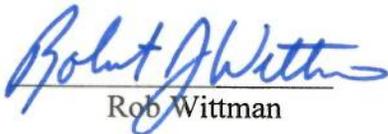


Robert Hurt

Sincerely,



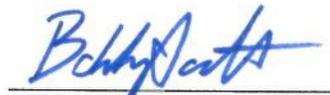
Bob Goodlatte



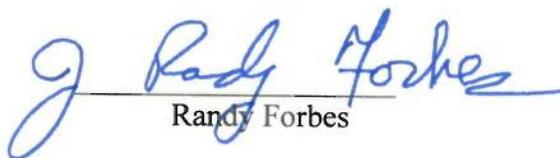
Rob Wittman



Scott Rigell



Bobby Scott



Randy Forbes