



July 14, 2010

The Honorable Sander Levin, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dave Camp, Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
1139E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 5712

Dear Chairman Levin and Ranking Member Camp:

The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) strongly supports H. R. 5712, the Veterans', Seniors' and Children's Health Technical Corrections Act.

AAHSA (www.aahsa.org) is a national network of community-based nonprofit organizations that provide services and supports to people as they age. These 5,400 organizations connect with millions of older persons and their families every day. They provide home health care, adult day services, hospice, senior housing, nursing care, assisted living, continuing care and a broad range of related services. AAHSA is the most trusted advocate for aging whose spirit of transformational stewardship and close collaboration with its members consistently improves lives.

The Technical Corrections Act contains essential provisions to restore the October 1, 2010 effective date for full implementation of the new RUGs IV Medicare payment system for skilled nursing facilities. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's delay of part but not all of the RUGs IV payment system would cause great confusion for both the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and for the nursing homes themselves. The new RUGs IV payment system will improve Medicare reimbursement for nursing facilities caring for the frailest and most medically complex patients in a cost-effective, budget-neutral way. We are pleased that this bill will put the new payment system back on track and urge the House to pass this important bill.

We appreciate your leadership on this vital legislation, which has our strong support.

Sincerely,

William L. Minnix, Jr.
President and CEO