September 5, 2018

Re:  Please Sign On to Bipartisan House Letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma
Regarding Use of Prior Authorization in Medicare Advantage Plans

Dear Representative:

The undersigned members of the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (CPR) write to express our strong support for a bipartisan Congressional sign-on letter from Representatives Phil Roe (R-TN-1) and Ami Bera (D-CA-7) to CMS Administrator Seema Verma regarding the use of prior authorization in Medicare Advantage (MA) plans.

Representatives Roe and Bera’s letter (attached, and available here) calls for CMS to work to reduce barriers to patient care by improving how prior authorization works under Medicare Advantage. The letter expresses concerns that CPR members share. In April 2018, CPR sent a letter (attached) to Administrator Verma expressing concerns that prior authorization and other similar practices used by MA plans may be sources of increasing barriers to accessing needed care, particularly inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services and devices, for beneficiaries nationwide.

CPR is a coalition of national consumer, clinician, and membership organizations that advocate for policies to ensure access to rehabilitative care so that individuals with injuries, illnesses, disabilities and chronic conditions may regain and/or maintain their maximum level of health and independent function. CPR is comprised of organizations that represent beneficiaries who are frequently inappropriately denied access to rehabilitative care in a variety of settings, as well as the providers who serve them.

We encourage you to join Reps. Roe and Bera in their letter to Administrator Verma. To sign on to the letter, please contact Aaron Bill in Rep. Roe’s office (aaron.bill@mail.house.gov) or Erin O’Quinn in Rep. Bera’s office (erin.oquinn@mail.house.gov) by September 7, 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact the CPR coordinators, Peter Thomas, at Peter.Thomas@powerslaw.com or Leif Brierley, at Leif.Brierley@powerslaw.com, or call 202-466-6550.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Members of the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation
Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals
ACCSES
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association on Health and Disability
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
American Dance Therapy Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Spinal Injury Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Brain Injury Association of America
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
Clinician Task Force
Falling Forward Foundation
Lakeshore Foundation
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Rehabilitation Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation
United Spinal Association