



August 10, 2012

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lee Terry
U.S. House or Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Schumer and Grassley, and Representatives Terry and DeGette;

On behalf of the Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders (“Alliance”), I am writing in strong support of your bipartisan *Equity and Access for Podiatric Physicians Under Medicaid Act* (S. 1309 / H.R. 3364). The Alliance is a nonprofit multidisciplinary trade association of health care professional and patient organizations whose mission is to promote quality care and patient access to wound care products and services through effective advocacy and educational outreach in the regulatory, legislative and public arenas.

Our members work very closely with podiatric physicians, and know first-hand how critical a role they play in diagnosing and treating wounds and ulcers of the foot and ankle. Many of the societies’ members work in hospital or office-based clinics which incorporate multi-disciplinary wound specialists, including Podiatry, to deliver best practice care. Wound and ulcer care of the foot is unique, and doctors of podiatric medicine are specially trained to effectively heal wounds of the foot and provide the ongoing care to reduce recurrence rates. In individuals who have diabetes, neuropathy or vascular disease, open wounds not properly treated can put patients at increased risk of developing infection in the skin and bone, and in extreme cases could lead to limb amputation.

Your commonsense, bipartisan legislation would ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have equal and full access to foot and ankle care provided by podiatric physicians, as do the Medicare, VA, IHS and privately insured people. Therefore, this legislation will be helping to ensure that our nation’s vulnerable Medicaid population has access to the important specialized foot and ankle care services provided by podiatrists.

Evidence confirms that when podiatric physicians are part of administering medical and surgical foot and ankle care, outcomes are better, hospitalizations fewer and shorter, and the health-care system saves billions of dollars annually.

The Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders thanks you for your leadership on this issue, and looks forward to working with you and the rest of Congress to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Marcia Nusgart R.Ph., Executive Director

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