

Dear Employee:

In 2006, Congress established a therapy cap exceptions process that has enabled beneficiaries needing a higher level of therapy care to continue receiving it. This process has enabled us to continue providing medically necessary therapy services to our patients.

The therapy cap exceptions process has worked well, but the program expired December 31, and rigid caps were imposed on January 1. Patients are now starting to hit the \$1860 cap and rehabilitative care is being restricted with little regard for patient needs.

Health reform legislation that passed the House of Representatives and Senate last year would extend the exceptions process for up to two years. Congressional leaders are now trying to merge the two versions of the bill into a single, unified measure that can secure majority votes in both chambers. The timetable for completing action on this legislation has slipped, and with therapy caps again in place, those of us working in long-term care must continue to urge our legislators to act on behalf of our patients by passing an extension of the therapy cap exceptions process as soon possible. A strong grassroots showing is a key element in convincing Congress to pass necessary legislation.

The National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL) has established an electronic advocacy Web site to provide an easy way for people to contact Congress in support of the exceptions process. Our firm is a member of NASL, and we encourage all employees to visit the NASL Advocacy Center at www.capwiz.com/nasl and send messages to your representative and senators. Many of you have used this site before, so you know how easy it is to register your views with your elected officials.

With just a couple of clicks and only a few moments of your time, you can send an important message to Capitol Hill. A sample letter is supplied to help you get started. You can personalize it with your own comments, or simply add your name and address. It is not even necessary for you to know the name of your representative; the advocacy center will use your Zip Code to direct your messages to the right legislator.

The next few weeks will be pivotal in determining the scope of therapy services in 2010, and the stakes are high for the long-term care community. Please take a moment to visit the NASL Advocacy Center to ensure that your voice is heard.

Sincerely,