Talking Points: CHRONIC Care Act of 2017

The Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act of 2017 would break down barriers so people could receive more in-home care/treatment, allow Medicare Advantage to tailor programs for specific beneficiary groups and to expand benefits, and allow patients and providers more discretion and options.

This bill would allow Medicaid patients and providers greatly expanded options for in-home patient care. This would drastically reduce the costs and frequency of hospital visits, freeing up hospital staff to deal more effectively with non-chronic patients and allow chronically-affected beneficiaries to pursue care options that are less disruptive and more tailored to their conditions and lives.

• It would greatly improve telehealth options for a variety of chronically affected Medicare beneficiaries.
• Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach to care, Medicare Advantage would allow patients and providers to interact through tailored, targeted programs better suited to specific beneficiary groups.
• This bill would also add benefits that go beyond pure healthcare to allow the conditions that help perpetuate chronic conditions to be mitigated and managed.

This bill would give far more discretion to accountable care organizations (ACOs).

• ACOs would be able to assign beneficiaries ahead of time, rather than retroactively.
• They would also be free to utilize their resources to help beneficiaries with care at far more of their own discretion.
This bill was crafted by a bi-partisan group of senators using common-sense consensus-driven approaches and has been graded favorably by the CBO.

- This bill was authored by two Democrats (Ron Wyden of Oregon and Mark Warner of Virginia) and one Republican (Johnny Isakson of Georgia).
- It tackles problems both parties agree are pressing.
- The CBO has ruled that it won’t add to Medicare spending, no will it take away from it, thus making it neutral in this respect.
- *This bill allows more freedom at no extra cost and does so by adding options, not dropping people from coverage or taking away benefits.*

This bill is basically a no-brainer and a win-win. Any senator not supporting it will have tough questions to answer and angry constituents to address.

- This bill provides better care at the same funding level.
- This bill provides more options and benefits to both beneficiaries and providers.
- This bill improves health outcomes, which means healthier patients, fewer deaths, and more results from taxpayer money.
- This bill allows hospitals to focus on what they do best and allows people with chronic illnesses to pursue less costly care options that are less disruptive.
- This bill allows providers and beneficiaries to pursue more effective treatments by offering a wider range of packages for care that are better tailored to key Medicare groups.