

## Join the Home Health Caucus!

**From: The Honorable James P. McGovern**

**Sent By: <mailto:lisa.salerno@mail.house.gov>**

**Date: 3/13/2009**

March 13, 2009

Dear Colleague:

Among the numerous challenges facing the U.S., one of the most critical is reforming our nation's health care system. Today, escalating health care cost now exceed \$2.2 trillion dollars per year, representing 16.2 percent of our entire gross domestic product. More than 46 million Americans do not have health insurance, with the number rising as the economy worsens. At the same time, every working citizen finds that more and more of their annual income goes to pay for health care coverage for themselves and their family. We simply need to find solutions for providing better, more affordable access to health care for all Americans, while providing quality of care and encouraging innovations in services and medical technology.

Today's home health care industry offers one of the most effective and cost efficient delivery systems of comprehensive, high quality health care services. **We are reconvening the home health caucus, first established in the 107th Congress, to further the role of home health in our Nation's health care delivery system and need your support.**

Nearly one million serve the home health care workforce as nurses, therapists, home care aides, social workers and clinicians. With the communication and technological advances over the last ten years, the home health community has pioneered leading-edge models and therapeutics to deliver comprehensive, high quality, patient centered care across the health care delivery system. These models lead to better patient care coordination, medication management, disease and chronic care management, and behavioral and preventative education. The innovative approaches of today's home health care show great promise in addressing many of the concerns associated with disparities in health care and access in rural communities.

Especially important for millions of America's seniors and people with disabilities, home health care allows them to live independently and receive care in a patient preferred setting... in their own home.

We strongly believe that home health care will play a significant role in finding solutions to our health care needs, as well as lowering costs and ensuring the viability of our invaluable Medicare and Medicaid services. Please let us know if you are interested in joining the House Home Health Caucus to serve as a resource to better educate our colleagues and professional staff on the benefits and affordable solutions that home health care can bring to America's health care.

If you would like to join this effort, or for more information please contact Lisa Salerno with Congressman McGovern's office (5-6101) or Cybil Roehrenbeck with Congressman Jones (5-3415).

Sincerely,

Congressman Jim McGovern

Congressman Walter Jones