



March 13, 2014

Please Co-Sponsor H.R. 4188, the Establishing Beneficiary Equity in the Hospital Readmission Program Act

Dear Rep. Flores:

The National Association of Urban Hospitals requests that you co-sponsor H.R. 4188, the Establishing Beneficiary Equity in the Hospital Readmission Program Act.

H.R. 4188 adds a much-needed risk adjustment element to Medicare's hospital readmissions reduction program. NAUH has long been concerned about the inequities we believe are inherent in Medicare's hospital readmissions reduction program and believes H.R. 4188 addresses much of that inequity. Specifically, numerous studies have demonstrated that patients dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid are often fundamentally more challenging to treat than the typical hospital patient – challenging because they frequently have had only sporadic access to health care services over long periods of time and have conditions that are therefore more complex to treat and challenging because they often lack the financial resources and community supports needed to facilitate recovery from illnesses and injuries and avoid readmission.

Although the bill was only introduced by your colleague, Rep. Jim Renacci, on Tuesday, many of your colleagues have already signed on as co-sponsors. To join them as a co-sponsor, please contact Alyssa Palisi in Rep. Renacci's office at Alyssa.Palisi@mail.house.gov.

H.R. 4188 is a timely proposal to addressing important inequities in a valuable program and would make a major contribution toward improving the effectiveness of Medicare's hospital readmissions reduction program. The National Association of Urban Hospitals enthusiastically supports the bill and urges you to do so as well by becoming a co-sponsor.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kugler, Esq.
Executive Director

