

Dear Congressman / Senator,

I am writing to you regarding the \$1,860.00 cap on physical and speech therapy. This arbitrary dollar figure allows for approximately 16-17 therapy visits for an entire year. Many of my colleagues have chronic illnesses that frequently utilize several more visits than would be allowed under this cap. I, myself, am not only concerned about their health and ability to function in society, but also my own. As I am swiftly utilizing my visits allowable for the year, I fear for any unforeseen circumstances that could occur later in this calendar year. If my current bout of physical therapy utilizes all of my visits, I will not have any remaining to use to address an unforeseen illness or injury, even if they are deemed medically necessary by my physician.

It is my understanding that in past years there has been an exemption process to address these circumstances, but to date, no exemption has been included in any of the recent healthcare legislation. My research has found that the GAO has determined that the Medicare cap has indeed not saved Medicare any significant amounts of money in the past and indeed may actually cost additional money because patients are being discharged prematurely and have suffered more catastrophic injury following their discharge.

As you are aware, seniors represent a large block of voters in your district and you would be doing us a great disservice should you not push hard to at least reinstate the exemption process if not eliminate the cap permanently. Thank you for your attention to this matter and I hope that I will soon see that congress has indeed acted in a prudent fashion. If congress is willing to give the state of Nebraska \$300,000,000 to pass the healthcare legislation that is presently on the table, I am sure it can find the money necessary to provide its senior citizens with the healthcare they deserve.

Sincerely,