

November 14, 2017

Dear Senator:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our support for the Seniors Tax Hike Prevention Act of 2017 to be included in the Senate's tax legislation. We believe that every effort should be made to maintain the medical expense deduction and to keep the threshold for the deduction as low as possible to help protect people with high medical costs.

The "Seniors Tax Hike Prevention Act of 2017" would delay the tax increase from 7.5 percent to 10 percent of the income threshold after which medical expenses can be deducted on itemized returns. We support this delay as a needed, immediate step in the right direction to permanently restore the tax threshold for older Americans with high out-of-pocket medical costs.

Even with Medicare, beneficiaries spend a large portion of their income on out-of-pocket expenses. The average Medicare beneficiary spends about \$5,680 out-of-pocket on medical care. Furthermore, older Americans often face high costs for long-term services and support, which are generally not covered by Medicare, as well as hospitalizations and prescription drugs. Tax relief in this area can provide needed resources, especially important to middle income seniors with high medical costs.

We are pleased to endorse the inclusion of this bill in tax legislation and thank Senators Portman and Brown for their work to protect this important tax deduction. If you have questions or need additional information you can reach out to Brendan Rose at 202-434-3922 or brose@arp.org.

Sincerely,

AARP

ACCSES

Alliance for Aging Research

AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

American Association on Health and Disability

American Seniors Housing Association

Argentum

Cancer Support Community

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

Colorectal Cancer Alliance

Disability Rights Legal Center

Healthywomen

Lakeshore Foundation

LeadingAge

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

National Adult Day Services Association

National Association of ACOs

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

National Council on Aging

National Organization for Rare Disorders

National Patient Advocate Foundation

Pioneer Network

Triage Cancer

United Spinal Association

Well Spouse Association