



December 16, 2019

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY via cures2@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U.S. House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
U.S. House of Representatives
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: ITEM Coalition Recommendations for Cures 2.0 Legislation

Dear Representatives DeGette and Upton:

The undersigned members of the Independence Through Enhancement of Medicare and Medicaid (ITEM) Coalition write to offer our recommendations for legislative reforms to include in the Cures 2.0 package. Attached, please find three documents outlining our recommendations involving a separate benefit category for complex rehabilitation technology, access to disposable negative pressure wound therapy, and Medicare coverage for seat elevation and standing features in power wheelchairs.

The ITEM Coalition is a national consumer and clinician-led coalition advocating for access to and coverage of assistive devices, technologies, and related services for persons with injuries, illnesses, disabilities, and chronic conditions of all ages. Our members represent individuals with a wide range of disabling conditions, as well as the providers who serve them, including such conditions as multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, stroke, paralysis, limb loss, cerebral palsy, hearing and speech impairments, visual impairments, vision loss, spina bifida, myositis, and other life-altering conditions.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in developing Cures 2.0 and look forward to working with your offices during this process. Should you have any further questions regarding the information contained in our submission, please contact the ITEM Coalition coordinators by email at Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com or Joseph.Nahra@PowersLaw.com, or call 202-872-6730.

Sincerely,

ITEM Coalition Signatories

ACCSES
The ALS Association
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Association for Homecare
American Association of People with Disabilities

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American Association on Health and Disability
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
American Cochlear Implant Alliance
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
The Arc of the United States
Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis
Caregiver Action Network
Caregiver Voices United
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation*
Clinician Task Force
Institute for Matching Person and Technology
Lakeshore Foundation
Long Island Center for Independent Living
The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care
National Association of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers
National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Registry of Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers
Paralyzed Veterans of America*
Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
The Simon Foundation for Continence
Spina Bifida Association of America
United Spinal Association*

**ITEM Coalition Steering Committee Member*