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June 19, 2020

The Honorable John Cornyn
U. S. Senate
Via email Jeffrey_last@cornyn.senate.gov

RE: Continue access to Medicare Part B medicines in the home

Dear Senator Cornyn,

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) is a statewide, cross-disability organization. CTD has appreciated the changes in policy and practice implemented during the coronavirus pandemic. 25% of Medicare beneficiaries are younger than 65 and live with disabilities; and many of the older adults have disabilities.

CTD supports continuing to allow Medicare beneficiaries more options to receive physician administered Medicare Part B covered infused and injectable therapies in the home, when deemed the best course of treatment by their medical team. Medicare Part B is a critical program that helps provide beneficiaries with affordable treatments of chronic conditions such as: cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, hypertension, Crohn's disease, mental illness, and autoimmune diseases.

The current public health crisis has disproportionately impacted the health of older individuals and those with underlying comorbidities, making the Medicare-covered population especially vulnerable. It is not in the personal or public interest for beneficiaries in need of treatment to be faced with the difficult decision to either forego essential therapies or treatment by staying home or potentially risk their own health by going to a hospital or physician's office. This is especially true for individuals with disabilities and/or from communities of color, many of whom rely on public modes of transportation to go to and from their physician's office.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services should extend its guidance on accessing Part B medicines in the home. On behalf of the many Texas Medicare beneficiaries who rely on Medicare, CTD asks for your support on this important and smart public policy.

For a barrier free society,

Dennis Borel
Executive Director