



## **Patient Advocacy Opportunity**

### **Ensure Therapy Service Availability When You Need It**

#### **Ask your House of Representative Member to Support House Bill H.R. 5536.**

On Oct. 8, U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., and Rep. Jason Smith, R-Mo., introduced H.R. 5536, the Stabilizing Medicare Access to Rehabilitation and Therapy Act, or SMART Act, in the House of Representatives.

#### **What does this Bill do?**

This NARA-supported bipartisan legislation would protect beneficiary access to therapy services by delaying the impending 15% payment differential for services furnished by a physical therapist assistant (PTA) or occupational therapy assistant (OTA) under Medicare Part B till January 1, 2023. It would also exempt rural and underserved areas from the reduction.

#### **How do these cuts impact patients?**

These cuts are a threat to therapy assistants and may leave many Medicare beneficiaries — especially those in underserved and rural areas — with less access to care. Now is not the time to cut therapy services provided by a PTA or OTA, given the other multiple cuts under Medicare and the current public health emergency.

#### **How can you ask your Representative?**

Using your smartphone camera or QR code reader, scan this QR code to be directed to the NARA Advocacy Center campaign we have created specifically for patients:



Or use this is the link to access the campaign:

<https://www.votervoice.net/NARA/campaigns/89043/respond>

***Thank you for your support of the important services we provide to our patients!***