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Coalition to Protect Senior Care Praises Bipartisan House Effort to Protect Seniors' Nursing Home Care, LTC Workforce

CPSC: FY 2010 Budget Must Complement Stimulus Policy Objectives, Not Undermine Them

Joplin, MO – In praising a new bipartisan letter from four U.S. House lawmakers to President Barack Obama urging him to protect federal eldercare funding, the Coalition to Protect Senior Care (CPSC) said that while the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will help strengthen the nation's long term care workforce, the White House should also ensure adequate Medicare funding is included in the FY 2010 budget as a means of protecting front line care jobs and seniors' growing care needs.

In a new letter to President Obama, U.S. Reps. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND), Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL) said, "We are writing to respectfully ask that in drafting your Fiscal Year 2010 (FY 2010) Budget, you do not propose Medicaid and Medicare payment policy recommendations that will adversely affect long term care delivery. While we recognize the importance of ensuring the future solvency of these programs, we ask that you also ensure that the best interest of our nation's frail elderly and the disabled served by skilled nursing facilities (SNF) are kept in mind."

Lori Porter, co-founder of the National Association of Health Care Assistants (NAHCA), and a senior spokesperson for the Coalition to Protect Senior Care, based in Joplin, MO, stated, "With proper spending safeguards at the state level, ARRA and its Medicaid component will help bolster the capacity of America's long term care workforce, and we commend the President and Congress for passing this key bill."

Continued Porter, "It is important now to ensure Medicare is adequately funded in the FY 2010 budget so that federal policy is consistent and complementary in terms of promoting workforce stability and capacity," she continued. "Medicare cuts would turn back the clock in this regard, cause a loss of front line care jobs, and put seniors' care at risk. We are thankful these key House lawmakers are making a bipartisan effort in Washington to protect this vital Medicare funding in the weeks ahead."

The Coalition to Protect Senior Care consists of the American Association for Long Term Care Nursing (AALTCN); the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA); the American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators (AANAC); the National Rural Health Association (NRHA); the American Association of Nurse Executives (AANEX); the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA); the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA); the American Society of Health Care Administration Executives (ASHCAE); the American Health Care Association (AHCA); the American Health Quality Association (AHQA); the National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL); the National Association of Health Care Assistants (NAHCA); the Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care; the Coalition of Women in Long Term Care (COWL); and the Nurse Executive Council.

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