INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE HOME INFUSION SITE OF CARE ACT OF 2015

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare Fee-for-Service program stands virtually alone among health care payers in the United States in not fully recognizing the clinical and cost benefits of providing infusion therapy to patients in their homes. Infusion therapy is fully covered by Medicare in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, hospital outpatient departments, and physician offices, but coverage in patients' homes is very limited. As a result, Medicare beneficiaries in need of infusion therapy usually receive their treatments in health care facilities rather than in their homes, which is the setting that is the most desirable, convenient, and by far the most cost-effective.

This is unfortunate and unnecessary. In the private sector, the accepted standard of care and practice for over 30 years is to provide infusion therapy at home where medically indicated and when requested by the attending physician. Ironically, patients who have access to this benefit under their private plans lose this coverage when they enroll in Medicare.

Medicare's lack of coverage for infusion therapy in the home setting can lead to substantial patient and family lifestyle disruptions and costs. Because Medicare only covers infusion services in institutional and limited outpatient settings, the beneficiary either has to travel to a health care facility to receive infusion treatments, sometimes multiple times a day, or remain in a facility for the duration of the therapy.

Today, Representative ELIOT ENGEL and I are introducing The Medicare Home Infusion Site of Care Act of 2015 so patients can receive the same infusion treatments that they currently receive in facility-based environments in their homes at a lower cost to Medicare. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support our bill to give patients better quality care at lower costs.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 3

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the findings of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016.

SD–608

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere and Global Narcotics Affairs

To hold hearings to examine understanding the impact of United States policy changes on human rights and democracy in Cuba.

SD–419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine No Child Left Behind, focusing on innovation to meet the needs of students.

SH–216

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the Internal Revenue Service Operations and the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016.

SD–215

FEBRUARY 4

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Defense.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine private sector experience with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) framework, focusing on building a more secure cyber future.

SR–253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to examine impacts of the proposed waters of the United States rule on state and local governments.

HVC–210

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016.

SD–215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine deferred action on immigration, focusing on implications and unanswered questions.

SD–342

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine combating financial exploitation of vulnerable seniors.

SD–562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

To hold hearings to examine the impacts of vessel discharge regulations on shipping and fishing industries.

SR–253

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 184, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, S. 209, to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, S. 246, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and an original bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine loan leveraging in Indian country.

SD–628

FEBRUARY 11

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Internet.

SR–253