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Dear Representative,

Our organization supports enactment of H.R. 3235, the "Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act," to update Medicare law and improve access to genetic counselors for Medicare beneficiaries. Genetic counselors are highly trained providers who support patients by providing comprehensive genetic counseling services. Genetic counselors work as part of the medical team to facilitate communication between Medicare beneficiaries and other providers to manage health issues with a genetic component.

Genetic counselors have advanced training in medical genetics and counseling. This specialized expertise enables genetic counselors to play a significant role in educating Medicare beneficiaries about the genetic contributions to disease and the implications for their health – both medical and psychological – and the health of family members. These highly trained professionals enable beneficiaries and other providers to consider which genetic tests may be appropriate, and how to evaluate test results. In short, genetic counselors empower patients and providers to make informed decisions.

The services of genetic counselors are increasingly important in the era of personalized medicine. Genetic counseling is particularly helpful for Medicare beneficiaries considering genetic testing for certain conditions affecting the elderly that have a genetic component, such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, and neurological disorders.

Medicare law needs to be updated to provide beneficiaries direct access to the services of genetic counselors, which will ensure patients receive the counseling they need to make the right decisions about their care. While Medicare currently covers genetic counseling services, the lack of direct reimbursement for genetic counselors and arcane "incident to" rules significantly prevent referrals to these providers.

H.R. 3235 takes a measured approach to modernize Medicare to catch up with the innovation of genetics and genomic medicine. The bill would:

- Improve the ability of other practitioners, such as physicians, to refer patients for genetic counseling to genetic counselors under Medicare Part B.
- Provide reimbursement to genetic counselors at 85 percent of the physician fee schedule amount.
- Ensure that other practitioners that currently provide the service can continue to do so if the activities are within their scope of practice.

Enabling broader Medicare beneficiary access to genetic counselors will help ensure appropriate genetic testing, provide critical knowledge to beneficiaries to fully understand test results that are often complex, and further integrate genetic counselors into the healthcare team. We expect the legislation will enhance team-based care coordination for Medicare beneficiaries, and may also save money for beneficiaries and the Medicare program.

We urge you to support this legislation to modernize and update Medicare for patients. For additional information, please contact John Richardson, Director of Government Relations, National Society of Genetic Counselors at jrichardson@nsgc.org or 202-367-1239.

Sincerely,

Access to Expanded Carrier Screening Coalition
ACT Genetics
Advocate Aurora Health
ALD Connect
Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers
AliveAndKickn
Ambry Genetics
American Board of Genetic Counseling
American Neurological Association
American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons
American Society of Human Genetics
Amyloidosis Foundation
ARUP Laboratories
Association for Utah Genetic Counselors
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Association of Creatine Deficiencies
Augustana University
AXYS
Bay Path University
Baylor College of Medicine
Baylor College of Medicine Genetic Counseling Program
BillionToOne
Blueprint Genetics
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston University Master's Program in Genetic Counseling
Boston University School of Medicine
Brandeis University Master's in Genetic Counseling Program
BRCA Advanced 101 & 102 Journal Club
Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Bright Pink
CDH International
Cedars-Sinai
Charcot Marie Tooth Association
Child Neurology Foundation

Massachusetts General Hospital
M-CM Network
MedAnswers Inc.
Medical College of Wisconsin
Memorial Care
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center
Metis Genetics, LLC
Miami Valley Down Syndrome Association
Michael's Mission
Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors
Michigan Medicine
Mickie's Miracles
Minnesota Genetic Counselors Association
Missouri Oncology Society
Moffitt Cancer Center
My Gene Counsel
My Gene Team
Myriad Genetics, Inc.
Natera
National Ataxia Foundation
National Down Syndrome Society
National PKU News
Nationwide Children's Hospital
New Hope Fertility Center
New York State Genetics Task Force
NGLY1.org
No Stomach for Cancer
North Carolina Medical Genetics Association
Northwestern University
Norton & Elaine Sarnoff Center for Jewish Genetics (Jewish United Fund)
Ohio Association of Genetic Counselors
OhioHealth
ORM Fertility
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
Pacific Reproductive Genetic Counseling
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD)
Parents and Researchers Interested in Smith-Magenis Syndrome (PRISMS)
Partners HealthCare

Children's Hospital Colorado
Children's Specialty Group
Choroideremia Research Foundation
Colon Cancer Coalition
Colon Cancer Foundation
Color
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Concert Genetics
Coriell Institute for Medical Research
Coriell Life Sciences
Csnk2a1 Foundation
Cure Sanfilippo Foundation
CureDuchenne
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
DCM Foundation
Digestive Disease and Surgery Institute,
Cleveland Clinic
Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio
Down Syndrome Association of Greater
Cincinnati
Dreamsickle Kids Foundation
Duke University
Dup15q Alliance
Eastern Wisconsin Division of the Hospital
Sisters Health System
Emory School of Medicine
Emory University
Empire State Hematology & Oncology Society
Epilepsy Foundation
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Exceptional Lives, Inc.
Executive Frameworks, Ltd (The Center for
Business Models in Healthcare)
Family Connection of SC
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Florida Association of Genetic Counselors
FOD Family Support Group
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer
Empowered
FSHD Society
Fulgent Genetics
Geisinger
GeneDx, Inc.
GeneMatters
Genetic Alliance
Pathways for Rare and Orphan Studies
Penn Medicine Basser Center
Penn State Health
Pennsylvania Association of Genetic
Counselors
Personalized Medicine Coalition
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation
Pheo Para Alliance
Piedmont Healthcare, Inc.
PlumeCare, LLC
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (USA)
PreventionGenetics
Prisma Health Upstate Cancer Institute
Progenity, Inc.
Providence St. Joseph Health
PXE International
Quest Diagnostics
Rady Children's Hospital- San Diego
Rare New England, Inc.
Raymond Foundation, Inc.
Regional Obstetrical Consultants
Remember The Girls
Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Sanford Health
Sema4
SERGG
Sharsheret
Sickle Cell Disease Association of America,
Inc.
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
South Carolina Chapter of the American
Academy of Pediatrics
South Carolina Oncology Society
Southeast Nebraska Cancer Center
Southern California Genetic Counselors
Spectrum Health
St. Luke's Health System
Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS)
Foundation
Sutter Health
Swedish Cancer Institute
Tennessee Genetic Counselor Association
Texas Society of Genetic Counselors

Genetic Support Foundation
Genome Medical
GenomeSmart Inc.
George Washington University MFA
Georgia Association of Genetic Counselors
Gibbs Cancer Center & Research Institute
Global Genes
Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh
Greenwood Genetic Center
Grey Genetics
Gundersen Health System
Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology
Hawkeye Area Down Syndrome Association (HADSA)
HCU Network America
Heart Rhythm Society
Hereditary Diffuse Gastric Cancer Advocacy
Hereditary Neuropathy Foundation
Hospital Sisters Health System EWD
Human Genetics Association of New Jersey
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Huntington's Disease Youth Organization (HDYO)
Illinois Society of Genetic Professionals
Illumina
Indiana Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center
Indiana Network of Genetic Counselors
Indiana State University
InformedDNA
InherRET, Inc.
Intelliger Consulting
Intermountain Healthcare- Precision Genomics
International Foundation for CDKL5 Research
International Network for Fatty Acid Oxidation Research and Management (INFORM)
International WAGR Syndrome Association
Invitae
Iowa Neurological Association
IU Health
Johns Hopkins University
Jordan's Guardian Angels
KCNQ2 Cure Alliance
Keck Graduate Institute
Kennedy Krieger Institute

The Collaborative Group of the Americas on Inherited Gastrointestinal Cancers
The Familial Hypercholesterolemia Foundation
The Ohio State University Genetic Counseling Graduate Program
The Ohio State University James Cancer Hospital and Solove Institute
The University of Arizona Cancer Center at Dignity Health St. Joseph's
The University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine Masters in Genetic Counseling Program
The Up Side of Downs of Northeast Ohio
The US Oncology Network
The US Oncology Network GREAT Program
The Women's Hospital
ThinkGenetic Foundation
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center
United Leukodystrophy Foundation
University of Alabama at Birmingham Genetic Counseling Training Program
University of Arkansas for Medical Science Genetic Counseling Graduate Program
University of California San Francisco
University of Iowa Health Care
University of Kansas Cancer Center
University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center
University of Maryland Master's in Genetic Counseling Program
University of Maryland School of Medicine
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program
University of Mississippi Medical Center Pediatric Genetics Division
University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of South Florida
University of Utah Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling
University of Vermont Health Network
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center
UT Health | The University of Texas Health Center at Houston

Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings
Lipodystrophy United
LIU Post GCGP
Long Island University
Long Island University Post
Lynch Syndrome International
Maryland and DC Society of Genetic
Counselors
Marshfield Clinic

UW Health
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
VHL Alliance
Virginia Association of Genetic Counselors
(VaAGC)
WakeMed Health & Hospitals
Watershed DNA, LLC
Wayne State University School of Medicine
Whittingham Cancer Center