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December 20, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House  
H-232 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

I am writing on behalf of the Aplastic Anemia and Myelodysplastic Syndromes International Foundation (AAMDS) to urge support and passage of H.R. 4215. This bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives Paulsen, Kind, Matsui, and Bilirakis would equalize Medicare reimbursement for the full spectrum of medical transplants.

Under current law, Medicare has established reimbursement policies that cover organ acquisition costs of certain transplants provided to beneficiaries. However, Medicare does not adequately reimburse for costs associated with hematopoietic stem cell, non-solid organ acquisition (e.g. bone marrow and cord stem cell transplant), which creates a significant financial barrier to beneficiaries who need these life-saving transplants.

With the introduction of H.R. 4215, Congress is taking the first steps in equalizing reimbursement methods and lowering costs for patients. The legislation directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a similar reimbursement structure consistent with the methodology used for payment of kidney acquisition. The new reimbursement model would cover a wide range of costs associated with non-solid organ acquisition, from donor evaluation and cell collection to the transportation and perfusion of collected cells.



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As an organization that works to educate policymakers on bone marrow failure diseases and promote continued investment in clinical research, AA·MDS strongly endorses the swift passage of H.R. 4215. The legislation will ease access to life-saving hematopoietic stem cell transplantation by reducing burdensome costs on Medicare beneficiaries. I encourage you and your colleagues to support H.R. 4215

Sincerely,

Kathleen Weis  
CEO