



**For Immediate Release**  
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**AHCA/NCAL Commends Congress for Reintroducing the  
Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act**  
*Legislation ensures time spent under observation, satisfies Medicare requirement*

**Washington, D.C.** – The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) today commended several members of Congress for reintroducing the Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act of 2017 (S.568/ H.R. 1421). Introduced by Congressmen Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Glenn 'GT' Thompson (R-PA) and Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Susan Collins (R-ME), Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), the legislation ensures that time spent under “observation status” in a hospital counts toward satisfying the three-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing care services under Medicare.

“This bipartisan bill will help fix a confusing policy that continues to leave millions hanging with uncertainty regarding their access to the Medicare coverage they deserve,” said Mark Parkinson, President and CEO of AHCA/NCAL. “The members of Congress that reintroduced this important legislation are advocates for our nation’s seniors and those individuals who need skilled nursing care. We applaud their efforts and support.”

For more information about the observation stays issue, please visit the AHCA/NCAL [website](#).

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**ABOUT AHCA/NCAL**

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represents more than 13,400 non-profit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute centers and homes for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of the millions of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please visit [www.ahca.org](http://www.ahca.org) or [www.ncal.org](http://www.ncal.org).