



July 3, 2014

Representative Allyson Y. Schwartz
1227 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schwartz:

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers (NAPGCM). With over 2,000 members, the NAPGCM is dedicated to the advancement of professional geriatric care management through education, collaboration, and leadership. A Geriatric Care Manager is a health and human services specialist who helps families who are caring for older relatives.

The NAPGCM strongly supports the Care Coordination for Older Americans Act. We urge the Congress to include this measure in the Older Americans Act (OAA), which is due for reauthorization.

The bill includes care coordination as a defined activity within the OAA. Specifically, the bill clarifies that care coordination encompasses the coordination of medical and social services, explicitly integrating social services into the OAA care coordination model. Under the bill, care coordination is defined as “a person- and family-centered, assessment based, and interdisciplinary approach to meet the needs and preferences of an older individual and a family caregiver while enhancing the capabilities of the older individual (including the ability to self-direct services).” This definition of care coordination is quite similar to NAPGCM’s definition of care management.

In addition, the bill addresses the providers of care coordination services. Care coordination includes services provided by trained professionals employed by or under contract with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), Aging and Disability Resource Renters (ADRCs), or other service providers, including in-home service providers. Presumably, professional geriatric care managers are included in this umbrella. We ask that geriatric care managers are explicitly included as “an other service provider.” We believe this definition will improve the bill in terms of capacity and quality.

As geriatric care managers, we support efforts to acknowledge and integrate the social services element of care coordination with the medical component. We believe this measure will further accomplish this goal and improve care for our nation’s frail elderly. We thank you for your dedication to this important effort.

Sincerely,

Emily Saltz, President