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December 21, 2022

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
2408 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
271 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
2078 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jason Crow
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schakowsky, Quigley, Fitzpatrick, and Crow:

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), the world's largest association of neurologists representing 38,000 professionals, is strongly committed to improving the care and outcomes of persons with neurologic illness in a cost-effective manner. One in six people live with a brain or nervous system condition, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, ALS, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, and headache.

The AAN writes to express our support for the Medicare Payment Reform for People with ALS Act of 2022. Your legislation helps ensure that patients with ALS can receive care at multidisciplinary clinics around the country by enhancing Medicare reimbursement to match the high-quality multifaceted care they provide.

Multidisciplinary clinics are essential to providing necessary care for patients with ALS. These clinics serve to coordinate the complex care needs of patients living with ALS. These services include sessions with a neurologist experienced in treating ALS, as well as a nurse case manager, physical therapist, occupational therapist, respiratory therapist, dietitian, speech language pathologist, social worker, mental health professional, and more. For both adult and pediatric neuromuscular disorders, multidisciplinary care is considered the standard of care, and has been associated with improved health outcomes. Visiting a multidisciplinary clinic can help people with ALS get the best possible care for their condition.

These essential multidisciplinary clinics are currently not being reimbursed accurately for the plethora of services they provide and so must make up for this funding gap through other revenue streams, including the voluntary support of non-governmental organizations. Without adequate reimbursement patient access to care suffers as

facilities face many challenges and are often forced to make changes to stay solvent that result in long wait times or decreased care innovation.

The Medicare Payment Reform for People with ALS Act of 2022 will ensure that multidisciplinary care for patients with ALS is appropriately reimbursed, allowing patients to receive the comprehensive care they deserve.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue. If you have any questions or requests for additional information, please contact Kelly McCone (kmccone@aan.com), Senior Congressional Affairs Manager, or Derek Brandt (dbrandt@aan.com), Director of Congressional Affairs. We look forward to working with you as we all strive to care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Orly Avitzur MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Orly Avitzur, MD, MBA, FAAN
President, American Academy of Neurology