

## **The Budget Process & Care at Home UPDATED**

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### **Impact on care at home issues like:**

- **telehealth**
- **hospice face-to-face**

A continuing resolution (CR) passed by Congress late last week and signed by President Trump has kept the federal government open, temporarily, and extended the Acute Hospital Care at Home waiver and telehealth flexibilities alive through September.

The Alliance is pleased with the extension, but would prefer to see a permanent solution.

“First and foremost we are thankful for the additional extension of the telehealth flexibilities and their impact for increased access to home health and hospice,” said Alliance Chief Legislative Affairs Officer Scott Levy. “These have proven extremely instrumental since the flexibilities were first provided during COVID and we know they have now become ingrained into much of the broader Medicare care-delivery and we support longer extension and ultimately, permanency. The same is true for hospital at home. Long-term certainty is what both telehealth and hospital at home need for the full potential and value to be truly unlocked for patients, providers, health systems and the Medicare benefit/trust fund. We look forward to working with congress and other stakeholders to make these programs become permanent. We applaud congress for including these important provisions in the CR.”

On Tuesday, March 11, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a funding bill, to avoid a government shutdown later this week, sending the legislation to the Senate for a vote soon. Current funding expires at 11:59 p.m. Friday, March 14. The Senate then took up the CR and passed it shortly thereafter.

The continuing resolution funds the federal government through September 30, the end of the fiscal year.

For the care at home community, the CR extends telehealth flexibilities that were scheduled to expire at the end of this month, the hospice face-to-face rule, removal of geographic and originating site requirements, through September 30, 2025. The CR also extends to two percent Medicare sequestration for an additional two months.