

Dear Senators Hatch, Wyden, Isakson and Warner,

I urge you to support the Senate Finance Committee “Chronic Care Workgroup” to introduce a policy that allows for any person with chronic illness to attend a CDSMP program. These programs allow individuals to live with the dignity and independence they want while having their health care needs met by a caring person. Costs are low adding to the sustainability factor for our country. This will be transformative!

I urge the Chronic Care Workgroup to recommend that all Medicare Advantage Programs, ACO Programs, CMS piloted alternate payment models (APMs) and Patient Centered Medical Homes make these programs available to their population with chronic disease. The Chronic Care Workgroup should also recommend CDSMP be provided by community-based organizations to all health care providers, organization and systems as the fundamental self-management approach for Medicare beneficiaries with one or more chronic diseases.

Clair R. Parsh, PhD