

Dear Senators:

January 22, 2016

I am writing in concern for the hospice benefit paid by senior advantage plan and the potential for limited choices for last days/weeks of care and the quality of that care.

I have been a hospice nurse for twenty plus years and am still currently employed in the field. I have seen many changes over the years plus but what does not change is the importance of quality care/choices to a very vulnerable group in the closing years of their life.

Hospice is so much more than what many are aware of. It includes services of physician visits, RN/LVN, social workers, spiritual counselors, certified home health aides and volunteers. It also entails medication, treatments, supplies, equipment and 24 hour triage support by trained staff. If you are the patient or family member which service would you want to be cut back or removed.

Our right to choose is of primary importance whether old or young, healthy or ill.

If the hospices are forced to reduce services to keep the companies afloat or stipulations are set forth as to when a company is able to bill or when will it be paid the public will be very much affected.

Please consider this very carefully and continue to support the fee for service Medicare plan.

Thank you so much for your time and reading my letter of concern.

Sharon Struiksma

Evergreen Hospice Care, Inc.

17215 Studebaker Rd. Suite 100

Cerritos, Ca. 90703

sstr@eghospice.com

Tel: (562) 865-9006