Preserve Access to Assistive Devices and Technologies in Any Health Reform Bill

Any version of health reform that emerges from Congress must preserve and protect access to rehabilitation and habilitation devices so that individuals with injuries, illnesses, disabilities and chronic conditions can regain and/or maintain their maximum level of health and independent function.

The ITEM Coalition is a national consumer- and clinician-led coalition advocating for access to and coverage of assistive devices, technologies, and related services for persons with injuries, illnesses, disabilities, and chronic conditions of all ages.

Any health reform legislation that Congress passes this year must preserve access to and coverage of rehabilitative and habilitative devices and related services. This includes coverage of durable medical equipment, complex rehab technology (CRT) wheelchairs and accessories, prosthetic limbs, orthotic braces, home oxygen therapy, and a wide variety of assistive devices that help individuals with speech, hearing, vision, ambulation, and activities of daily living.

Assistive devices, technologies, and related services are essential to enable people to:

- Improve, maintain, and/or prevent deterioration to their health status and functional abilities;
- Return to work;
- Live as independently as possible;
- Avoid unnecessary and expensive acute care or long term nursing home care; and
- Prevent expensive and unnecessary secondary conditions.

Assistive devices and technologies should be provided based on the individual’s needs, prescribed in consultation with a physician, and based on the assessment of a multidisciplinary team and resulting plan of care.

Coverage of assistive devices, technologies, and related services is critical for enrollees in individual and small group private health plans, and beneficiaries of Medicaid expansion programs, and all other payers of health care services and devices.

For more information, contact ITEM Coalition at steve.postal@powerslaw.com or https://itemcoalition.org/
Congressional Briefing Sponsoring and Endorsing Organizations

Sponsoring Organizations
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association on Health and Disability
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
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American Therapeutic Recreation Association
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The Arc of the United States
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American Cochlear Implant Alliance
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Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
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Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
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