



December 16, 2019

**SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY via [cures2@mail.house.gov](mailto:cures2@mail.house.gov)**

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2111 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2183 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: ITEM Coalition Recommendations for Cures 2.0 Legislation**

Dear Representatives DeGette and Upton:

The undersigned members of the Independence Through Enhancement of Medicare and Medicaid (ITEM) Coalition write to offer our recommendations for legislative reforms to include in the Cures 2.0 package. Attached, please find three documents outlining our recommendations involving a separate benefit category for complex rehabilitation technology, access to disposable negative pressure wound therapy, and Medicare coverage for seat elevation and standing features in power wheelchairs.

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. Our members represent individuals with a wide range of disabling conditions, as well as the providers who serve them, including such conditions as multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, stroke, paralysis, limb loss, cerebral palsy, hearing and speech impairments, visual impairments, vision loss, spina bifida, myositis, and other life-altering conditions.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in developing Cures 2.0 and look forward to working with your offices during this process. Should you have any further questions regarding the information contained in our submission, please contact the ITEM Coalition coordinators by email at [Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com](mailto:Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com) or [Joseph.Nahra@PowersLaw.com](mailto:Joseph.Nahra@PowersLaw.com), or call 202-872-6730.

Sincerely,

**ITEM Coalition Signatories**

ACCSES  
The ALS Association  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association for Homecare  
American Association of People with Disabilities

*(Continued on next page)*

American Association on Health and Disability  
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine  
American Cochlear Implant Alliance  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
The Arc of the United States  
Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs  
The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis  
Caregiver Action Network  
Caregiver Voices United  
**Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation\***  
Clinician Task Force  
Institute for Matching Person and Technology  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Long Island Center for Independent Living  
The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care  
National Association of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers  
National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Registry of Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers  
**Paralyzed Veterans of America\***  
Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America  
The Simon Foundation for Continence  
Spina Bifida Association of America  
**United Spinal Association\***

*\*ITEM Coalition Steering Committee Member*