

TALKING POINTS FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE CALLS

Good Morning/Afternoon

>My name is _____. I am a constituent of the Senator and I work at _____. My position is _____. I would like to speak to the staff person who handles health issues for the Senator.

>I am calling to urge the Senator to co-sponsor or support the provisions of S. 691, the Kidney Care Quality and Education Act. Our industry needs this vital legislation as do the patients that we serve.

>As you know, the House included a number of ESRD Provisions in the CHAMP Act that was passed just before the August recess. We have numerous concerns with these provisions. First and foremost, the legislation does not provide for a statutory mechanism for an annual update or an increase in the composite rate next year. Over the past decade, the ESRD composite rate has only been increased by 6.8 percent, while the general consumer price index has risen by 27.8 percent and the medical care component by 44 percent.

>We are also concerned by the bundling provisions and the loss of \$3 billion in the program over 10 years. We believe that given the financial difficulties we face as a small dialysis provider and our desire to provide our patients with the best quality of care we cannot afford to have our Medicare reimbursement reduced by such a substantial amount.

>There are sections in the House bill that we support such as the education provisions, which are contained in the Kidney Care Quality and Improvement Act.

>My colleagues and I would greatly appreciate the Senator co-sponsoring the bill or, at a minimum, supporting its provisions in any Medicare legislation that the Finance Committee may consider over the next few weeks. It is essential that the legislation provide us with sufficient resources to maintain and, if possible, improve the quality of care we provide our patients.