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For Immediate Release: June 21, 2010

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HOME CARE PHYSICIANS TO CELEBRATE “INDEPENDENCE AT HOME” DAY

**June 29 from 8:30-10 am
US Capitol Visitor Center
Congressional Meeting Room-South**

The Independence at Home Act (S. 1131, H.R. 2560) was introduced by Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Representative Ed Markey (D-PA) in September 2009 and incorporated into the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in March 2010. IAH has broad bi-partisan support in part because it is the only demonstration project that requires cost savings as a condition of participation. IAH is a boon for senior citizens because it improves care quality, helps caregivers, and gives seniors the ability to age in place. There are house call providers across the country. Some groups have adopted this framework already and can demonstrate success. The 32 year old Veterans' Administration's Home-Based Primary Care program, for example, has reduced inpatient days by 62% and reduced overall costs by 24% country-wide. See <http://www.iahnow.com/IAHcostsavings.htm> for nine other illustrations of cost savings.

Help us honor Senator Wyden and Congressman Markey and celebrate Independence at Home, the future of health care. The sponsors and key staff will receive awards, and we will also recognize the efforts of the IAH coalition. The event will kick off the campaign to get IAH implemented immediately.

Invite your friends and other members of the press. RSVP to the American Academy of Home Care Physicians at 410-676-7966 or to aahcp@comcast.net.

Details about Independence at Home

IHA amends Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide home-limited high cost Medicare beneficiaries suffering from multiple chronic conditions with access to medical services in their homes provided by physicians, or in some cases, nurse practitioner directed teams. By reducing or eliminating ER visits and hospitalizations IAH programs will be designed to generate immediate savings under Medicare – at least 5% – that can be used to pay for the program and for other purposes.

“For too long, people struggling with multiple chronic conditions have had to handle their health challenges while wading their way through a complex system of multiple specialists, with too little guidance and coordination,” said Senator Wyden. “The Independence at Home Act will not only improve patients’ health and offer them more freedom – it should also lead to finding better ways to deliver care and cut costs.”

“Our bill puts patients first by promoting coordinated care designed to quickly identify and treat emerging health problems and, where possible, avoid hospitalizations, improving patients’ quality of life while also cutting costs. Patients and their families will spend less time juggling conflicting diagnoses and multiple doctors, and more time focused on living their lives as independently as possible, in their own homes,” said Rep. Markey.

Said George Taler, MD and Jim Pyles, JD, two leaders of the IAH effort, “IAH is intended to fundamentally change the 1965-era Medicare service delivery model from ‘institutional health care first’ to ‘home care first’. The current service delivery model promotes high cost, fragmented and uncoordinated health care and produces poor outcomes. The Independence at Home Act promotes coordinated health care in the lowest cost settings and holds providers accountable for savings and improved outcomes. IAH also provides economic incentives for providers to use innovation and technology to find new ways of providing health care that reduce costs and produce better outcomes. Lastly, IAH provides health care that Americans want by keeping them as independent as possible for as long as possible.”

For more information, see www.IAHnow.com.

Since 1988, the American Academy of Home Care Physicians has served the needs of thousands of physicians and related professionals and agencies interested in improving care of patients in the home. For more information, see www.aahcp.org.

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