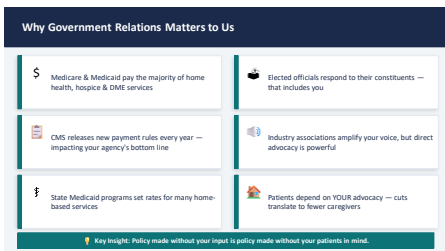




1



2



3

SECTION 1

The Federal Government

4



5

Key Federal Committees Affecting Health Care

SENATE	HOUSE
<p>Finance Committee <i>Chair: Mike Crapo (R-ID)</i> Oversees Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP — the funding engine for All Home Health, Hospice & DSH services</p>	<p>Energy & Commerce <i>Chair: Brett Guthrie (R-OH)</i> Oversees jurisdiction — Medicaid, Medicare, FDA, public health, CMS through the Health Subcommittee</p>
<p>HELP Committee <i>Chair: Jeff Cravens (R-LA)</i> Health, Education, Labor & Pensions — FDA, NIH, CDC, public health policy, workforce & public health insurance</p>	<p>Ways & Means Committee <i>Chair: Jason Smith (R-KC)</i> Tax and revenue side of Medicare — Part A & financing, physician fee schedule, payment rates</p>
<p>Special Committee on Aging <i>Chair: Bill Cassidy (R-LA)</i> Focuses on seniors' issues — Medicare access, elder care, long-term services and supports</p>	<p>Budget Committee <i>Chair: Robert Byrd (R-WV)</i> Reconciliation process — driving major potential Medicaid cuts (\$80B budget from Energy & Commerce)</p>

6



7

Michigan State Government Structure

Executive Branch	Legislative Branch	Judicial Branch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Governor Gretchen Whitmer (D) ▶ MDHS — Michigan Dept. of Health & Human Services ▶ Sets Medicaid policy & rates ▶ LARA — Licensing & Regulatory Affairs ▶ Oversees home health, hospice licensure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Senate: 38 members ▶ House of Representatives: 110 members ▶ Democrats hold the Senate, Republicans hold the House ▶ Bicameral — both chambers must pass bills ▶ Committees do the detailed work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Michigan Supreme Court ▶ Court of Appeals ▶ Interprets healthcare law ▶ Recent decisions impact Auto No-Fault reimbursement ▶ Can overturn agency rules

8

Michigan Legislative Committees: Healthcare Focus

<p>HEALTH</p> <p>Health Policy</p> <p>Primary healthcare legislation — Medicaid, home health, hospice, scope of practice, licensing</p>	<p>HEALTH</p> <p>Health Policy Committee</p> <p>House counterpart to Senate Health Policy Committee — licensing, scope of practice, DHS standards, home health regulations</p>
<p>HEALTH</p> <p>Appropriations: Department of Health and Human Services Subcommittee</p> <p>Controls the state budget for Medicaid — rates for home care, hospice, & other HHS programs</p>	<p>HEALTH</p> <p>Appropriations: Medicaid and Behavioral Health Subcommittee</p> <p>House version of Medicaid budget — home health aide wages, hospice funding</p>
<p>HEALTH</p> <p>Appropriations: Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee</p> <p>Hospice & Home Health licensure</p>	<p>HEALTH</p> <p>Appropriations: Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee</p> <p>House counterpart to Senate subcommittee</p>

9

Michigan Medicaid: Home-Based Care Context

Michigan Medicaid Highlights	Key State Agencies to Know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~2.7 million Michiganders enrolled in Medicaid Healthy Michigan Plan (ACA expansion) covers ~700K Medicaid Waiver: home & community-based services for seniors & adults with disabilities Adult Home Help: direct care workers serving homebound beneficiaries Home health agencies must be certified by CMS to bill Medicaid MDHHS sets Michigan-specific Medicaid reimbursement rates annually MI 483 (2020): Palliative Care Advisory Task Force created within MDHHS 	<p>MDHHS Michigan Dept. of Health & Human Services — sets Medicaid benefit policy, rates, and home health program oversight</p> <p>LARA Dept. of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs — licenses home health agencies, hospices, CNA, suppliers</p> <p>CMH Community Mental Health boards — manage behavioral health & some long-term supports</p>

10

SECTION 3

Current Issues

11

Home Health: Current Federal Payment Issues

-1.3%

CY 2026 Net Payment Change for HHAG

CMS 2026 Final Rule: -1.3% (\$220M reduction) vs. proposed -6.4% cut — advocacy worked!

PDGM (Patient-Driven Groupings Model) behavior adjustments continue — permanent -1.023% in 2026

SHoPAC March 2026 recommendation: -7% for 2027 — a serious looming threat

Cumulative cuts since 2023 driving agency closures, unfilled referrals, & staff reductions

Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model expansion continues nationally

Access to Care Concerns

- Increasing unfilled home health referrals — patients can't get care after hospital discharge
- Home health agencies reducing service areas, especially in rural Michigan
- Workforce crisis: hard to recruit aides when reimbursement doesn't support competitive wages
- Medicare Advantage plans often pay below Medicare FFS rates — compounding the problem

12



Your Voice Matters



16

Step 1: Know Your Representatives

Michigan's Federal Delegation (Key Contacts)

Sen. Gary Peters (D)	Senate Finance Committee member — directly influences Medicare/Medicaid rates
Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D)	New senator (2025) — building relationships now is key; supports rural healthcare access
Rep. John James (R-MD)	Energy & Commerce Committee — key vote on Medicaid reconciliation cuts
Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI)	Energy & Commerce — involved in health policy legislation

How to Find YOUR Representatives

Federal: congress.gov/members | Enter your ZIP code to find your U.S. Senators & House Member
 State Senate: senate.michigan.gov | Find your district by address
 State House: house.mi.gov | Search by address — know their committee assignments
 MDHHS: michigan.gov/mdhhs | Agency contact for Medicaid and home health policy

17

Step 2: Effective Advocacy Tactics for Regular Citizens

<p>Write or Email Your Rep</p> <p>Be specific: cite the bill number, tell your personal story or patient story. Drafts help lawmakers contact by issue — include numbers.</p>	<p>Call the District Office</p> <p>District staff live in your community. Alert, push call goes on a tally sheet. Identify yourself as a constituent. Be concise — 2 minutes max.</p>
<p>Schedule an In-Person Meeting</p> <p>Most powerful tool available. Request an appointment through their website. Bring 2-3 patient stories, a 1-page issue brief, and a specific ask.</p>	<p>Use Social Media</p> <p>@mention your rep on X/Twitter or Facebook. Tag relevant committees. Use official hashtag during hearing days to get noticed by staff.</p>
<p>Write a Letter to the Editor</p> <p>Local papers carry real weight with state legislators and Congress members. A published LTE is noticed by district staff and shared with the rep.</p>	<p>Attend Town Halls & Hearings</p> <p>Comment at public hearings (CMS proposed rules). Attend state legislative committee hearings — public testimony is open to all residents.</p>

18

Step 3: Crafting a Compelling Advocacy Message

The 3-Part Advocacy Message Framework

- 1. WHO YOU ARE**
 "I am a home health agency administrator serving 200 patients in Shiawassee County, Michigan, many of whom are Medicare beneficiaries."
- 2. THE PROBLEM**
 "Proposed 2027 payment cuts would force us to reduce staff and potentially close our rural service areas, leaving patients without critical in-home care."
- 3. YOUR ASK**
 "I urge you to oppose MedPAC's recommendation for a 7% home health rate cut in 2027 and instead support stable, adequate reimbursement for home-based care."

Always: use data + a human story. Say what you want them to DO. Thank them for their time.

19

Step 4: Work Through Associations & Coalitions

<p>Federal National Alliance for Care at Home</p> <p>Home health & hospice — comments on CMS rules, lobbies Congress on payment rates</p> <p>alliance@careathome.org</p>	<p>Michigan Michigan HomeCare & Hospice Assoc. (MHCA)</p> <p>State-level advocacy for HHAs and hospices — key contact for Michigan legislation</p> <p>mhca.org</p>
<p>Federal The VGM Group</p> <p>American Association for Homecare (AAH)</p> <p>CMHC coalition — CDR reform, prior authorization, coverage policy</p> <p>sign.org/americas/government-reformers/</p> <p>aaahomecare.org</p>	<p>Michigan Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHHA)</p> <p>Leader health system advocacy including post-acute, trackLARA and R201145 policy</p> <p>mhha.org</p>

20

Step 5: Submit Public Comments on Proposed Rules

<p>What is a Proposed Rule?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal agencies (like CMS) must publish proposed rules in the Federal Register before finalizing them There is a public comment period — usually 60 days CMS must read and respond to substantive comments A flood of provider comments helped reduce the 2020 home health proposed cut from 6.4% to 3.2% Your comments become part of the official regulatory record You DO NOT need to be a lobbyist or lawyer to comment Go to: regulations.gov — search for the rule, click "Comment" 	<p>How to Write a Strong Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify yourself State who you are and your state in the rule Be specific Reference the specific provision (section #) you're addressing Use data Share patient volume, access data, or workforce numbers Tell a story One patient story is more memorable than statistics alone Be professional Fact-based; are noted but individual comments carry more weight Submit on time Deadlines are hard — late comments may not be considered
--	--

21

Your 30-Day Advocacy Action Plan

This Week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look up your U.S. Representative & both Senators at congress.gov Look up your Michigan State Rep & State Senator at legislature.mi.gov Register for MHN's next public policy discussion! 	Week 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call one representative's office — introduce yourself and your organization Sign up for email alerts from MHN and Alliance for Care at Home Check MHN's website, member center, action center, for letters you can directly email your representative/senator
Week 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a letter to the editor of your local paper about a current healthcare news issue Request a meeting with your State Rep or Senator's district office Identify one patient or family willing to share their story as a testimonial 	Week 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit a public comment on any open CMS proposed rule (check regulations.gov) Meet with your legislator or their staff — bring your 1-page brief Share your advocacy efforts with your team — build a culture of engagement

22

Key Resources & Q&A

cms.gov CMS — Medicare payment rules, proposed rules, fact sheets	allianceforcareathome.org Home health & hospice federal advocacy — action alerts
regulations.gov Submit public comments on all federal proposed rules	mhba.org Michigan HomeCare & Hospice Association — state-level advocacy
congress.gov Find your reps, track legislation, read committee reports	adhomecare.org You can live in.org/medicare-relations American Association for Homecare & VDM — DMEPOS advocacy
legislature.mi.gov Michigan bills, committee schedules, find your state legislators	medicare.gov/care-compare Quality data on home health agencies, hospices — know your competition

23

Every Patient You Serve Has a Story Worth Telling.

*Tell it to your legislators.
The policies affecting home health, hospice & DME
are not inevitable, they are choices made by people
you can influence.*

24

Contact Info

Adam Miller
Adam.Miller@pays.com
(310) 269-5294
Nick Baugh
Nick.Baugh@pays.com
(517) 897-3358
