



SNP Alliance

A National Nonprofit Leadership Organization

The National Voice for Special Needs and Medicare-Medicaid Plans

News Release

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Special Needs Plans Achieve Permanency with the Passage of H.R. 1892

Washington, DC — With the signing today of H.R. 1892, the “Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018,” by President Donald J. Trump, all special needs plans, known as SNPs, now have permanency. SNPs, a type of specialized managed care for high-risk individuals, were first authorized by legislation in 2004 and began enrolling members in 2006. Prior to today’s legislation, SNPs were reauthorized for specific timeframes, typically two or three years. There are three types of SNPs: (1) those that serve people who are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid (D-SNPs); (2) those who have one of the specified serious chronic conditions (C-SNPs); and (3) those who have additional support needs that qualify them to be at an “institutional level of care” (I-SNPs).

“This significant recognition of the value of special needs plans represents years of work by committed individuals, by health plans serving high-risk individuals, and by many in Congress who have worked tirelessly to recognize SNPs with permanent status,” says Cheryl Phillips, MD, president and CEO of the Special Need Plan Alliance.

Rich Bringewatt, president and CEO of the National Health Policy Group, who founded the SNP Alliance and has been a constant force for advancing SNPs explained: “This is one of the few pieces of this legislation that had broad bipartisan, bicameral support. We are very excited about the opportunities this will provide for improving benefits and services for poor, frail, disabled and chronically-ill persons.”

“We have worked a long time for this day,” explained John Baackes, chair of the SNP Alliance Board and CEO of L.A. Care Health Plan in Los Angeles. “Now we can focus on the work we need to do to improve care and services for vulnerable populations.”

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The SNP Alliance is the nation’s leading voice for improving policy and practice for special needs populations. We are a nonprofit leadership organization exclusively representing special needs plans (SNPs), Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs), and other specialized managed care programs. www.snpalliance.org