

REQUEST: Cosponsor the Sickle Cell Disease Comprehensive Care Act.

Affecting nearly 100,000 Americans, sickle cell disease (SCD) is an inherited, lifelong disorder, which results in patients' red blood cells becoming rigid and sickle-shaped causing them to block blood and oxygen flow to the body. Individuals with SCD are living longer but unfortunately, many receive uncoordinated, inconsistent care, leading to poor clinical outcomes, avoidable complications, low quality of life, and increased costs to the healthcare system. Improving access to high-quality outpatient care will improve quality of life for individuals with SCD and reduce costs associated with visits to the emergency department (ED) and inpatient hospital stays.

A Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) report found that approximately 50% of individuals in the U.S. with SCD are covered by Medicaid. The Sickle Cell Disease Comprehensive Care Act directs CMS to establish a SCD Health Home to improve access to comprehensive, high-quality, outpatient care, which will be available to Medicaid beneficiaries with SCD in states that submit a state plan amendment (SPA).

- ***Allowing states to submit a SPA to establish a Health Home for patients with SCD as the single qualifying condition.***
 - Health Homes are a proven care delivery model in Medicaid that have been used by states to improve quality, enhance care, and reduce unnecessary costs.
 - Congress has expanded this model to include a designated provider, which may be a physician, a team of professionals linked to a designated provider, or a