FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REPS. DANNY DAVIS AND JEN KIGGANS INTRODUCE SOCIAL WORK BILL TO MEET URGENT MEDICARE NEEDS

[*Washington, D.C.*] The Coalition for Social Work and Health is proud to announce the introduction of the *Integrating Social Workers Across Health Care Settings Act*, H.R. 4638, a transformative piece of legislation aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of social work interventions on complex health problems among Medicare beneficiaries.

Within healthcare settings, social workers use the unique skills of their profession to improve people's care journeys. This may look like improving access to medication, connecting to employment resources, addressing caregiver burnout, or any other action that supports a patient's overall wellbeing. Clinical social workers (CSWs) are further trained on the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental and behavioral health conditions, while still fulfilling a broader role of care coordination. Under current Medicare statutory language, **CSWs are restricted from billing any of the services they provide outside of the direct care they offer as mental health providers.**

The Coalition offers the following statement on the introduction of H.R. 4638:
"*For patients and families, getting care from a clinical social worker can make all the difference in a health journey. The Integrating Social Workers Across Health Care Settings Act acknowledges the positive impact social workers make in the lives of patients and invests in this workforce accordingly. When everyone can access the care they need and deserve, the health of our nation is stronger.*"

H.R. 4638 would allow CSWs to bill for services they are already authorized to perform under their existing state scope of practice regulations. By permitting CSWs to bill for the comprehensive care they provide, we could access the full potential of a workforce that is trained to promote the well-being of vulnerable populations.

"*The American Society of Nephrology supports this key legislation for its strong contributions to the growth and advancement of the clinical social work profession. With a robust investment in this workforce, Medicare recipients from all walks of life can access quality care coordination to address the health and social needs that ultimately determine patient outcomes*," commented ASN President Michelle A. Josephson, MD, FASN.

CSWH is calling upon members of Congress, social workers, healthcare stakeholders, and advocates to support the *Integrating Social Workers Across Health Care Settings Act*, H.R. 4638 which will invest in this key health profession to reduce Medicare costs while improving health equity and outcomes.

For action opportunities and more information, please review our policy brief, visit our action opportunities, or contact Bonnie Ewald at Bonnie_Ewald@rush.edu.

About the Coalition for Social Work and Health:
Established in 2013, CSWH is a collective dedicated to elevating and expanding social work's impact in improving health and healthcare. The organization engages in policy advocacy, research, and education through its membership of professional associations, practice leaders, and allies.

www.chasci.org/cswh   **#socialworkisKEY**

ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS:

AgeOptions
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Society of Nephrology
Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan
Camden Coalition
CJE SeniorLife
Coalition for Social Work and Health
Coalition to Transform Advanced Care
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Health Leads
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
National Association for Geriatrics Education
National Association of Black Social Workers
National Association of Social Workers
National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Partners in Care Foundation
Region IV Area Agency on Aging
Renal Physicians Association
Renal Support Network
Rush University System for Health
Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network
Society of Transplant Social Work
Waitlist Zero