

MEDIA ADVISORY March 2, 2010

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PRESS CONFERENCE: CONSUMER ADVOCACY, THERAPY ORGANIZATIONS SPEAK OUT AGAINST MEDICARE PART B THERAPY CAP

WHAT:

On March 3, 2010, consumer advocacy and therapy organizations will host a press conference to discuss reinstituting the Medicare Part B cap exceptions process as more and more Medicare beneficiaries reach the cap.

Speakers:

Dr. Eric Aldrich, President of the Mid-Atlantic Affiliate AHA/ASA Board American Heart Association/American Stroke Association

John Schall, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Parkinson's Action Network

Justin Moore, DPT, Vice President for Government and Payment Advocacy American Physical Therapy Association

Tim Nanof, Federal Affairs Manager American Occupational Therapy Association

Tommie L. Robinson, PhD, CCC-SLP, President American Speech-Language Pathology Association

WHERE: Rayburn House Office Building

B-318

WHEN: Wednesday, March 3, 2010

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

WHY: The exceptions process to the Medicare therapy cap expired at the end of 2009. An

> extension to the exceptions process for the Medicare therapy cap was included in both the House and Senate versions of health care reform, but the fate of that legislation is still uncertain. The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) recognized this uncertainty in December and, collaborating with other patient and provider groups, worked

to secure action on an alternative vehicle to immediately address the therapy caps.

Founded in 1917, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) represents the professional interests and concerns of more than 140,000 occupational therapists, assistants and students nationwide. The Association educates the public and advances the profession of occupational therapy by providing resources, setting standards including accreditations and serving as an advocate to improve health care. Based in Bethesda, Md., AOTA's major programs and activities are directed toward promoting the professional development of its members and assuring consumer access to quality services so patients can maximize their individual potential. For more information, go to www.aota.org.