



February 6, 2026

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

**RE: Disability and Rehabilitation Community Support for MedPAC Nomination of
John D. Rockwood**

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The undersigned members of the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (“CPR”) write to offer our strong support for John D. Rockwood to be appointed to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (“MedPAC”). Mr. Rockwood brings more than three decades of leadership experience in post-acute care, including acute inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient rehabilitation, and integrated delivery system operations. As MedPAC continues its focus on post-acute care, we believe it is imperative to include participation on the Commission from experts who understand rehabilitation and disability from a variety of perspectives, especially the clinical and leadership perspective.

CPR is a coalition of national consumer, clinician, and membership organizations that advocate for policies to ensure access to rehabilitative care so that individuals with injuries, illnesses, disabilities, and chronic conditions may regain and/or maintain their maximum level of health and independent function. CPR is comprised of organizations that represent patients—as well as the clinicians who serve them—who are frequently inappropriately denied access to rehabilitative care in a variety of settings.

Mr. Rockwood has served since 2009 as President of the MedStar National Rehabilitation Network and as a Senior Vice President of MedStar Health, leading one of the nation’s largest and most sophisticated rehabilitation systems. The MedStar National Rehabilitation Network is comprised of a 137-bed acute rehabilitation hospital in Washington, DC, a 42-bed acute rehabilitation unit in Baltimore, MD, and 63 outpatient centers that span across the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan region. Mr. Rockwood’s experience spans inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and units, outpatient therapy services, and system-level strategy within a major integrated health system. He has overseen care delivery for patients with stroke, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, complex orthopedic conditions, and other disabling conditions that rely heavily on Medicare’s post-acute care benefit.

Importantly, Mr. Rockwood's perspective reflects not only executive leadership, but also a sustained commitment to quality improvement, patient access, and value-based care. He understands how Medicare payment policy decisions affect provider behavior, beneficiary access, workforce stability, and care outcomes—particularly for individuals with significant functional and medical needs. His service on national and regional hospital and rehabilitation boards further demonstrates his ability to contribute thoughtfully and constructively to complex policy discussions.

Mr. Rockwood's extensive academic training further strengthens his qualifications to serve on MedPAC. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration with concentrations in finance and economics from Michigan State University, followed by a Master of Science degree in Business with a focus on finance from Johns Hopkins University. He also completed advanced executive education at Georgetown University and The Wharton School. This rigorous foundation in finance, economics, and health system leadership uniquely equips Mr. Rockwood to evaluate payment policy through both a fiscal and clinical lens. His ability to assess the budgetary, operational, and beneficiary-level implications of payment recommendations would be particularly valuable to MedPAC as it evaluates complex issues related to post-acute care reimbursement, payment adequacy, and value-based models.

At a time when MedPAC is evaluating post-acute care payment models, site-neutral proposals, and Medicare coverage policies that directly impact rehabilitation providers and patients, the Commission would greatly benefit from Mr. Rockwood's real-world expertise. Mr. Rockwood's appointment would help ensure that MedPAC's recommendations are informed by an accurate understanding of post-acute care delivery and the needs of beneficiaries who depend on rehabilitation services to regain function and independence.

As we have expressed to the Commission in the past, our organizations have been concerned with the level of discourse during MedPAC meetings on post-acute care issues. In fact, several MedPAC members have explicitly expressed their unfamiliarity with inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and other settings of post-acute care that are critically important to Medicare beneficiaries with injuries, illnesses, disabilities, and chronic conditions. Expanding the Commission's expertise in this area is essential, particularly as MedPAC continues to consider dramatic recommended changes to the post-acute care landscape, including the ongoing discussions around a unified post-acute care payment system. Mr. Rockwood's voice as a commissioner would add a necessary level of real-world experience and patient understanding that is too frequently lacking in these discussions.

In recent years, CPR has supported the nomination of medical rehabilitation physicians with expertise in post-acute care to bring a broader perspective to MedPAC on these issues. Most recently, we supported Dr. Alberto Esquenazi for three years in a row, but we also supported Dr. Bruce Gans in 2022, and Dr. Dexanne Clohan in 2021. While these fine candidates were ultimately not selected to serve as a MedPAC commissioner, we feel our support for Mr. Rockwood this year is particularly strong considering both his experience and leadership qualities, which would meaningfully strengthen the Commission's work and improve the quality of Medicare policy recommendations affecting Medicare beneficiaries.

For these reasons, the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation strongly recommends the appointment of Mr. Rockwood to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of our endorsement of Mr. Rockwood's candidacy to be appointed to MedPAC. Should you have any further questions, please contact Peter Thomas and Michael Barnett, co-coordinators for CPR, by e-mailing Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com and Michael.Barnett@PowersLaw.com or by calling 202-466-6550.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Members of the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation

ACCSES

American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

American Music Therapy Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Physical Therapy Association

American Spinal Injury Association

Association of Academic Physiatrists

Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Falling Forward Foundation*

National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics

National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

National Athletic Trainers' Association

RESNA

****CPR Steering Committee Member***