



**Alliance for
Patient Access**

January **, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker, House of Representatives
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader, House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader, Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader, Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader Schumer:

As clinician members of the Alliance for Patient Access, we are writing in support of H.R. 6280/S. 3607, the *Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act*. This legislation would broaden Medicare reimbursement to include genetic counselors, for treatments and services that would otherwise be provided by a physician.

Founded in 2006, AfPA is a national network of policy-minded health care providers who advocate for patient-centered care. AfPA supports health policies that reinforce clinical decision-making, promote personalized care, and protect the clinician-patient relationship. Motivated by these principles, AfPA members participate in clinician working groups, advocacy initiatives, stakeholder coalitions, and the creation of educational materials.

Genetic counselors help identify appropriate genetic examinations and connect patients to personalized care. By reviewing a patient's and family's medical history, genetic counselors are uniquely equipped to aid individuals navigating the overwhelming world of genetic testing. Genetic counselors support patients across the medical field, guiding them toward relevant genetic tests and saving patients, providers, and payers time and money. With improvements in technology and personalized medicine, there has been a dramatic increase in demand for genetic counselors (1); however, for those on Medicare, access varies.

Not recognizing genetic counselors as providers prevents Medicare beneficiaries from accessing genetic counseling and testing, increasing the likelihood that patients will receive faulty guidance from providers without expertise. Because genetic counselors are specially trained to interpret and address genetic testing, an inaccurate genetic risk assessment from another provider can ultimately cost Medicare more (2). Furthermore, if exams reveal a concern, genetic counselors limit unnecessary testing and can properly address inconclusive results (3). By offering preventive, targeted assistance, genetic counselors not only improve clinical outcomes but also reduce avoidable long-term costs for taxpayers. These findings indicate that genetic counselors make a positive economic and medical impact where they are utilized.

The *Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act* is a critical step forward toward greater access to personalized precision medicine. This legislation would establish genetic counselors as providers within Medicare, allowing them to be reimbursed and create a precedent for broader coverage.

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While this legislation is specific to genetic counselors and Medicare, it is a critical step toward improving the landscape of access to personalized care and genetic testing. Providing clear reimbursement guidelines and requirements up front will allow patients and providers to more easily navigate coverage and access to care.

It is for these reasons that we support H.R. 6280/S. 3607, which will ensure that genetic counselors can be reimbursed for services previously reimbursable only to physicians, thereby improving access to genetic counselors for Medicare recipients. If we can provide further details or answer any questions, please reach out to cmcpherson@allianceforpatientaccess.org or (202)951-7097.

Sincerely,

Sources:

1. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/genetic-counselors.htm>
2. <https://everylifefoundation.org/rare-advocates/advocacy-tools/policy-primers/policy-primers-access-to-genetic-counselor-services->

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