



CR Legislative Advocacy Packet

Thank you for your interest in advocating for CR bills H.R. 955/S. 1849 and H.R. 1406/S. 3021!

Research shows cardiac rehab is a crucial component of comprehensive cardiovascular care. By inviting your program or site's leadership to advocate for these bills, you are helping to break down barriers to access and ensure that all patients have equitable opportunities to participate in and benefit from this life-saving treatment.

In this packet, you will find the following:

- Policy and Issue Briefs
- Resources for gaining leadership buy-in
 - Suggested Talking Points
 - MiCR Letter of Support
 - National CR Sign-on Letter
 - Letter of Support Template
- Tools for Locating & contacting U.S. Representatives and Senators

Policy and Issue Briefs

- [A Bipartisan Path for Congress To Expand Cardiac Rehabilitation Capacity and Access](#) (Health Affairs Forefront, 10/24/2023)
Article co-authored by MiCR Advisory Committee member, Steven Keteyian and MiCR's Co-Director Mike Thompson.
- Issue Brief: [H.R. 955/S. 1849 - SOS: Sustaining Outpatient Services Act](#) (AACVPR)
- Issue Brief: [H.R. 1406/S. 3021 - Sustainable Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Services in the Home Act](#) (AACVPR)

Resources for Gaining Leadership Buy-in

Suggested Talking Points

Share examples **at your facility** of how CR services have been negatively impacted by the current policies and legislation, such as excessive wait times, the inability to expand to off-campus locations to provide better access, barriers faced by rural patients or patients without transportation. The two CR bills will address those concerns by

H.R. 1406/S. 3021

- Permanently extend Medicare reimbursement for virtual CR, which was allowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but expired December 31, 2023.

- Permanently extend Medicare regulations for virtual (real-time audio/visual) CR physician supervision, which was allowed due to COVID-19 and is due to expire December 31, 2024.
- Allow facilities to expand capacity through virtual CR access without requiring additional capital investments in new facilities and providing flexibility to patients with geographic or social barriers to participation.

H.R. 955/S. 1849

- Allow hospital-based CR programs to be reimbursed at the same rate on and off the main hospital campus.
- Ensure CR accessibility by incentivizing investments into expanded or new physical spaces that could mitigate current capacity shortages.

MiCR Letter of Support [[LINK](#)]

Review MiCR's letter of support for both bills with your leadership to communicate these bills have support from health care organizations working to improve cardiovascular health care in Michigan. The MiCR letter was cosigned by its collaborative partners and was sent to each Michigan's U.S. Representatives and Senators.

National CR Sign-On Letter [[LINK](#)]

Demonstrate to your program or site's leadership that these bills also have support among health care organizations across the country.

Letter of Support Template [[LINK](#)]

Customize a letter of support for your facility's leadership team using this template created by MiCR and the Michigan Society for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (MSCVPR) Health Policy & Reimbursement Committee.

Important Details Regarding Letters of Support

- MSCVPR has provided MiCR with a U.S. Representative Contact Guide containing contact information for Michigan's Representatives. To download this guide, click [here](#).
- Letters of support from your program's leadership can be sent to all the Representatives and Senators for the State of Michigan, regardless of the district where you are located.
- Emails must be directed to the Representative's Health Policy Liaison, if they have one. These liaisons are **highlighted** in the [MSCVPR contact guide](#).
- Some representatives will only receive emails from their constituents, however their mail via USPS can come from anyone, regardless of district. So, if you can't email, send a letter!
- If possible, follow up your letter with a phone calls. Phone calls are still the best way to communicate with your representative. Phone numbers are available the [MSCVPR contact guide](#).

Tools for Locating & Contacting U.S. Representatives and Senators

- **Locate your U.S. Representative** for your district using the US House webpage <https://www.house.gov/representatives>. If you know your district, find your representative in the directory. If you don't know your district, search by zip code on the top tool bar.



- **Michigan's Senators are Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters.** Their contact information can be found here: <https://www.senate.gov/states/MI/intro.htm>
- **Contact your Rep and Senators** with these links if you wish to advocate on your own. Remember to contact both your Representative and Senators because the bills need to pass both the Senate **and** House of Representatives.
 - To send a letter to your district's Representative, click [here](#).
 - To send a letter to your Senator, click [here](#).