

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **VNAA Names 2012 Congressional Champions**

### **Champions will be Honored at VNAA Public Policy Leadership Conference**

**WASHINGTON, DC – July 16, 2012** – The [VNAA](#)'s 2012 Public Policy Leadership Conference ([PPLC](#)) will take place September 19-20, in Washington, DC. This event convenes nonprofit home health and hospice executives to educate lawmakers about the nonprofit home health and hospice delivery systems and the vulnerable patients they serve. Each year, VNAA honors Members of Congress who champion issues important to nonprofit home health and hospice.

VNAA is pleased to announce the 2012 VNAA Congressional Champion Awardees:

- **Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA):** Senator Grassley has sponsored legislation, the Medicare Hospice Care Access Act (S. 891), that will allow Physicians Assistants to serve Medicare hospice patients as attending physicians. He has also been a strong voice against waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid, writing to Secretary Sebelius in support of using moratoriums to prevent further abuse of the programs. His membership on the Senate Finance Committee makes him an important ally in health care policy.
- **Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN):** Senator Klobuchar has sponsored legislation, the Fostering Independence Through Technology Act (S. 501), that will create a pilot program for telemedicine in rural and urban communities. She has also supported legislation, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act (S. 227), that will allow Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants to sign off on home health plans of care and face-to-face documentation. She is a leader and an important partner in health care policy.
- **Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz (D-PA):** Representative Schwartz has sponsored legislation, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act (H.R. 2267), that will allow Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants to sign off on home health plans of care and face-to-face documentation. Representative Schwartz is also a member of the Home Health Congressional Caucus and is very active in healthcare issues.

The outstanding work these 2012 VNAA Congressional Champions have done to help advance nonprofit home health and hospice is evident by their list of accomplishments listed above. VNAA looks forward to presenting the recipients with their 2012 Congressional Champion Awards during the Public Policy Leadership Conference's Capitol Hill Reception on September 19.

Other event keynote speakers include **Melanie Bella**, Director, Medicare and Medicaid Coordination Office, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), **Rochelle Archuleta**, Senior Associate Director Policy Development of Post-Acute Care, American Hospital Association and **Kimberly Brandt**, JD, Chief Healthcare Investigative Counsel, Senate Committee on Finance. Learn more about the conference and the awardees at [www.AdvocacyConference.org](http://www.AdvocacyConference.org).

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**About VNAA:** *The VNAA is the national association that supports, promotes and advances nonprofit providers of home and community-based healthcare, hospice and health promotion services to ensure quality care for their communities. VNAA members share a mission to provide cost-effective and compassionate care to some of the nation's most vulnerable individuals, particularly the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Visit <http://www.VNAA.org> today.*

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