

Hill Day 2019

The group took three key topics to their congressional representatives' offices:

- **The need for a national nursing home medical director registry.** While many nursing homes engage their medical director appropriately in carrying out regulatory requirements, others may not; and still others may have medical directors in name only. A national registry could close this gap and reveal inconsistencies in medical director coverage.
- **Telehealth in the skilled nursing facility (SNF) setting.** The Society supports the ongoing testing of various telehealth models but also believes that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) should allow for the use of these services when they are medically necessary instead of using an arbitrary limitation on visits. The Society urges Congress to revise the current monthly limit on physicians' telehealth consults under Part B and use the common "medical necessity" standards for these consults in keeping with the rest of the Medicare program.
- **Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP).** The Society asks lawmakers to cosponsor legislation that increases the authorization level for the GWEP program, which is the only federal program designed to develop a health care workforce that maximizes patient and family engagement while improving outcomes for older adults.

Rajeev Kumar, MD, FACP, CMD, Society secretary, agrees, noting, "All of the issues resonated with the people I spoke with." For instance, he says, "They all agreed that the workforce issue is very important; and they understand that we need more clinicians trained in geriatrics caring for our older Americans. Several people thanked us for the work we do, and that was very satisfying."