



Special needs require special attorneys.

RUSSELL PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

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SPECIAL NEEDS ALLIANCE CALLS ON CONGRESS TO ELIMINATE TWO-YEAR MEDICARE WAITING PERIOD

(TUCSON, Ariz.) – The **Special Needs Alliance (SNA)** today formally announced its support of the introduction of **Ending the Medicare Disability Waiting Period Act of 2009** (S. 700, H.R. 1708).

As a national non-profit organization dedicated to special needs advocacy, public benefits and disability law, the SNA decided to publicly support this legislation—which would eliminate the two-year waiting period for Medicare eligibility. To date, an estimated 1.8 million individuals living with disabilities are awaiting Medicare coverage under the current waiting period.

The SNA has also formally joined more than 100 other organizations in the **Coalition to End the Two-Year Wait for Medicare**.

“We have a legal and social responsibility to push for pieces of legislation that will positively benefit our clients, and the entire special needs community,” said **SNA Public Policy Committee Chair Bridget O’Brien Swartz**. “There are individuals who need necessary medical care and treatment

that is otherwise unavailable to those with pre-existing conditions, and more immediate access to Medicare will help to improve their quality of life.”

About the Special Needs Alliance:

The Special Needs Alliance (SNA) is a national, not for profit organization of attorneys dedicated to the practice of disability and public benefits law. Individuals with disabilities, their families and their advisors rely on the SNA to connect them with nearby attorneys who focus their practices in the disability law arena. SNA membership is based on a combination of relevant legal experience in the disability and elder law fields, direct family experience with disability, active participation with national, state and local disability advocacy organizations, and professional reputation. The majority have been certified as Elder Law Attorneys (CELAs) by the National Elder Law Foundation, the certifying entity for the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA).

For more information about the Special Needs Alliance, or to locate a member attorney in your area, visit www.specialneedsalliance.org or call 1-877-572-8472.

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