



Caring that Feels Right at Home

December 16, 2009

The Honorable Kendrick Meek
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Meek:

The American Association for Homecare and the following list of organizations representing different segments of the home medical equipment community, including clinical, consumer and healthcare organizations, are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 3790, the bill that would eliminate the ill-conceived and troubled competitive bidding program for durable medical equipment and prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS).

The competitive bidding program is problematic for Medicare beneficiaries in need of homecare and for the providers of home medical equipment and services who serve the elderly and people with disabilities. The program will jeopardize beneficiaries' access to care and ultimately the quality of care those beneficiaries receive. Bidding will also result in tremendous economic hardship on the community of homecare providers. Everyone who works closely with providers and patients, such as physicians, clinicians and hospital case managers, will also find the bidding program a disruptive and difficult arrangement that offers little in the way of benefit.

The elimination of competitive bidding will allow homecare providers to continue to offer the same high-quality service and equipment to Medicare beneficiaries that they have become accustomed to receiving. Moreover, homecare providers will be able to maintain their critical role in reducing the nation's health care costs by allowing beneficiaries to stay in their homes with the products and services on which they depend.

Realizing that elimination of the bidding program is not without cost to Medicare, your legislation will reduce Medicare reimbursements to home medical equipment providers in years 2010-2012 and again in 2014 and 2015.

The homecare community and organizations throughout the country are working together to pursue additional co-sponsors for the legislation.

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We appreciate your strong support of the homecare community, including clinicians and physicians as well as seniors and people with disabilities. We look forward to continuing to work with you to garner support across the country to enact H.R. 3790.

Respectfully,



Tyler J. Wilson
President

Homecare Community Organizations Supporting HR 3790

The ALS Association
Alabama Durable Medical Equipment Association
American Association for Homecare
American Association of People with Disabilities
Arizona Medical Equipment Suppliers Association
Association of Indiana Home Medical Equipment Services
COPD-Alert
Coalition of Wound Care Manufacturers
Coalition of Respiratory Care Manufacturers
Coalition of Enteral Nutrition Manufacturers
Colorado Association for Medical Equipment Services
Florida Alliance of Home Care Services
Florida Association of Medical Equipment Services
Georgia Association of Medical Equipment Suppliers
Illinois Association for Medical Equipment Services
International Ventilator Users Network
Jersey Association of Medical Equipment Services
Kentucky Medical Equipment Suppliers Association
Maryland National Capital Home Care Association
The MED Group
Medical Equipment Suppliers Association
Michigan Home Health Association
Midwest Association for Medical Equipment Services
Mississippi Association of Medical Equipment Suppliers
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Association for the Support of Long-Term Care
National Emphysema/COPD Association
National Spinal Cord Injury Association
Nevada Association of Medical Product Suppliers
New York Medical Equipment Providers Association

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North Carolina Association for Medical Equipment Services
Ohio Association of Medical Equipment Services
Pacific Association for Medical Equipment Services
Pennsylvania Association of Medical Suppliers
Post-Polio Health International
RetireSafe
South Carolina Medical Equipment Services Association
Tennessee Association for Home Care
Texas Alliance of Home Care Services
United Spinal Association
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Virginia Association of Durable Medical Equipment Companies
West Virginia Medical Equipment Suppliers Association
Wisconsin Association of Medical Equipment Services