

September 19, 2023

The Honorable John Joyce
U.S. House of Representatives
152 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Joyce:

The undersigned organizations would like to thank you for introducing the Choices for Increased Mobility Act of 2023 (H.R. 5371). The legislation would allow Medicare beneficiaries to choose titanium/carbon fiber wheelchairs they need.

On December 15, 2016, Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) released a policy that prohibited upgrades for titanium wheelchairs, which prohibits suppliers from billing for an upgrade to a wheelchair. As result, the only avenue for beneficiaries to obtain the titanium or carbon fiber wheelchairs is to pay for the entire wheelchair out of pocket and for the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) supplier to file a non-assigned claim to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for partial reimbursement. This has detrimentally affected access to titanium and carbon fiber wheelchairs.

Medicare beneficiaries should have the ability to choose whether a titanium or carbon fiber wheelchair is right for them. On September 8, 2023, you introduced the Choices for Increased Mobility Act of 2023 (H.R. 5371). The legislation would enable upgrades within a code removing the current obstacles in place and offering key benefits to end users at no additional cost to CMS.

Thank you again for you for introducing H.R. 5371. We are strongly urging members of the House of Representatives to cosponsor the bill. We look forward to working with you on the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

AAHomecare -- American Association for Homecare
NCART -- National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology
NRRTS -- National Registry for Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers
PAMS -- Pennsylvania Association of Medical Suppliers
GAMES - Georgia Association of Medical Equipment Suppliers
TexMEP - Texas Medical Equipment Providers Association
OMEPA - Oklahoma Medical Equipment Providers Association
CAMPS -- California Association of Medical Product Suppliers
ATHOMES -- Association for Tennessee Home Oxygen & Medical Equipment Services
FAHCS -- Florida Alliance of Home Care Services
ACMESA -- Atlantic Coast Medical Equipment Services Association

NEMEP -- Northeast Medical Equipment Providers Association

MAMES -- Midwest Association for Medical Equipment Services

SWMESA -- Southwest Medical Equipment Suppliers Association

HOMES -- Home Medical Equipment & Services Association of New England

OAMES -- Ohio Association of Medical Equipment Services