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Supporting Quality Health Care Services at Home

# Special Alert

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## House Set to Vote on Bill Tonight: Copay Out; Competitive Bidding Remains

Late last night, House Republicans agreed on a bill that will be presented on the House floor this evening. They agreed to drop the copay provisions for home health, but retained the competitive bidding provisions as set out in the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees' bills. At the Rules Committee this morning, Congressman James McGovern (D-MA) offered an amendment to strike the competitive bidding provisions, which failed on party lines as was expected once the Republicans reached their agreement last night.

The "noise" that our members, consumers, and coalition partners have been making has been very important. Because of these advocacy efforts, the copay provision was dropped. Although competitive bidding was kept in the bill, we reached scores of members who now have great reservations about such a policy. We should keep those calls and letters going to the House. At the same time, we should make certain we are communicating our issues to the Senate. **It now appears that Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) intends to have a Medicare bill on the floor in July and wants the Senate to consider prescription drug and provider issues together.**

That means our time is limited, and we must act quickly. Call and see if you can meet during the July 4 recess or attend a Town Hall meeting. If a meeting cannot be arranged, talk to the staff and follow up with a letter.

Visit [www.aahomecare.org](http://www.aahomecare.org) and click onto the Competitive Bidding box on the home page to access the latest information, including position papers and talking points. You can also click through to the Capitol Connection site to access and contact your elected representatives.

Please keep AAHomecare informed of your contacts.