

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 27, 2008

***Protect Patient Access to Power Wheelchairs***

Dear Small Business Committee Colleague:


Attached for your consideration is a letter to House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Rangel and House Committee on Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman Stark urging them to reject any proposal that would eliminate the first month purchase option for Medicare power mobility devices (PMD). While elimination of the first month purchase option has yet to be included in any Medicare package, the provision was included as part of the CHAMP bill passed by the House last year. Our hope is that in being proactive with our concerns, this potentially devastating provision will not be considered in any Medicare package.

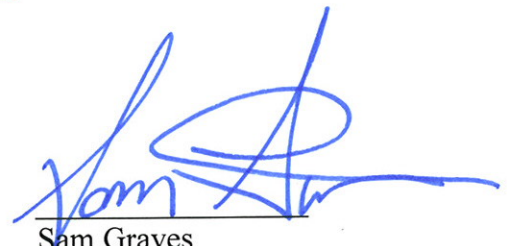
When Medicare beneficiaries purchase their PMD, payment is made to the supplier in one lump sum. Since suppliers submit claims only after the PMD is delivered to the beneficiary, payments made over a 13-month period in lieu of payment made upfront will create cash flow issues that will adversely impact small suppliers that rely on timely reimbursement to ensure adequate working capital.

Our concern is that this disruption in cash flow, coupled with recent decreases in PMD reimbursement and the ongoing implementation of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid's competitive bidding program, will make it too difficult for small PMD suppliers to remain in business to serve Medicare beneficiaries. Elimination of the first month purchase option will be yet another nail in the coffin of small suppliers.

We urge you to join us in supporting small suppliers by signing on to the attached letter. If you have any questions or would like to sign on to the letter, please contact Cara Toman in Rep. Altmire's office at 5-2565 or [cara.toman@mail.house.gov](mailto:cara.toman@mail.house.gov) or Mark Ratto in Rep. Graves' office at 5-7041 or [mark.ratto@mail.house.gov](mailto:mark.ratto@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Jason Altmire  
Member of Congress

  
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress