

Dear

Medicare is beginning a program described as “competitive bidding” for home medical equipment and services, like those we provide to you. This program is designed to put most Medicare home medical providers out of business.

Because the program reduces the number of equipment providers and encourages rock-bottom reimbursement rates, we believe this program will make it harder for you, as Medicare beneficiaries to receive the medical equipment, supplies, and services you need. This bidding program could reduce your access to quality homecare supplies and services in several ways because, as currently designed, the program:

- **Reduces the number of quality homecare providers** you can choose from to obtain medically necessary home medical equipment;
- **Selects only a small number of homecare providers on the basis of price rather than quality of care;** and
- **Forces many Medicare beneficiaries to obtain equipment, supplies, and services from unfamiliar providers** who may have no prior experience providing the items and services you depend on.

Fortunately, a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 3790, introduced by Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-Fla.), would eliminate this misguided bidding program in a fiscally responsible way and preserve your choice of provider and uninterrupted access to the quality equipment, services, and supplies you need.

This bill has strong support from many Democrats and Republicans, but it needs your support to succeed.

Please call or email your legislator in the House of Representatives today and ask him or her to cosponsor H.R. 3790. The phone number for Congress is 202-224-3121. To find out who your member of Congress is, visit www.house.gov and enter your ZIP code in the upper left corner.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,