



# Special Alert

March 6, 2001

## **Senate Slated to Reconsider Ergonomics Regulations: ACTION NEEDED**

As early as today, the Senate may consider rescinding the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) ergonomics standards under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). Jim Pyles, AAHomecare's legal counsel, states that under a CRA, Congress may reject regulations within 60 days of the effective date with a majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Senate Majority Whip Don Nickles (R-OK) and the rest of the Republican Leadership are slated to raise the issue on the Senate floor as early as today. If the Senate passes the resolution by a majority, the House of Representatives led by Congressman Cass Ballanger (R-NC) will try to follow the Senate's lead later this week.

The ergonomics regulation went into effect on January 16, 2001. The entire homecare industry will be adversely affected by this regulation, including HME suppliers. According to OSHA projections, home health providers would be the hardest hit with an estimated annual cost of \$43 million to comply with the regulation. OSHA also projects that compliance costs for home health providers will be higher than for any other industry as a percentage of profits.

AAHomecare will keep you posted. You may also listen to the Senate proceedings on C-SPAN or at their Web site at <http://www.cspan.org/watch>.

### **ACTION NEEDED!**

**Please contact both of your state's U.S. senators today to urge them to support the rescinding of the ergonomics standards! The Capitol switchboard number is 202-224-3121.**

If you should have questions, please contact Mara Benner, VP of Government Relations or Seth Johnson, Director of Public Policy, at (703) 836-6263. Thank you!