



Special Alert

March 7, 2001

AAHomecare Claims Victory! Congress Rescinds Ergonomics Regulation

Today, the House of Representatives voted on H.Res 79, which rescinds the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) ergonomics standards by a vote of 222-198. Following yesterday's AAHomecare *Special Alert*, the Senate passed S.J.Res.6 by a vote of 56-44. The Senate for the first time used the Congressional Review Act (CRA), which permits Congress to reject regulations within 60 days of the effective date with a majority vote. Passing both houses of Congress, the resolution does not require the President's signature but provides him an option to veto it, which seems very unlikely.

"This is a victory for the homecare industry and the patients that it serves. Although we support the need to keep workers safe, the ergonomics standards would have significantly burdened homecare providers, ultimately limiting access to patients in critical need for care," stated AAHomecare President and CEO Thomas Connaughton. "We see this as a first step by the Bush Administration in reducing the regulatory burdens on the homecare industry that reduce the patient access to health care services at home," continued Connaughton.

Thank you to AAHomecare members who called their congressional representatives in our grassroots efforts. This regulation will no longer be effective and members will not have to implement ergonomic standards in their workplaces.

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