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ON INTELLIGENCE

January 17, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

I am reaching out because I have been hearing from many of my rural constituents regarding access to durable medical equipment (DME). As you know, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has made regulatory changes related to DME benefits resulting in significant reimbursement reductions. These significant reductions have led to Missouri DME companies having to cut back on vital services they offer and many are in danger of having to close their doors.

As a fiscal conservative, I understand the desire for CMS to save the taxpayers' money. However, I believe that these reductions are pennywise and pound foolish. Many of my constituents will have no choice but to transition to full-time skilled nursing facilities if they do not have access to DME that makes it possible for them to remain independent and in their homes for a fraction of the cost.

It has come to my attention that there is an Interim Final Regulation (IFR) at the Office of Management and Budget entitled "Durable Medical Equipment Fee Schedule, Adjustments to Resume Transitional 50/50 Blended Rates to Provide Relief in Non-Competitive Bidding Areas" (RIN 0938-AT21). This rule will provide necessary relief by extending the transition period for phasing in the adjustments to changes in reimbursement. I encourage you to expedite approval of this rule and extending the relief until 2019. Doing so will allow DME companies to continue providing vital services to my constituents.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Desiree Mowry at desiree_mowry@blunt.senate.gov.

Sincere regards,



Roy Blunt
United States Senator