



June 29, 2017

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Congressman Lee Zeldin

Congresswoman Diana DeGette
Congressman Dave Loebsack

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers, Congressman Zeldin, Congresswoman DeGette, and Congressman Loebsack:

On behalf of the American Association for Homecare, we would like to express our appreciation for your leadership in advocating for better public policy affecting home medical equipment (HME) providers and the patients they serve. We especially appreciate your spearheading the recent Congressional sign-on letter on HME public policy priorities sent to leadership at the Dept. of Health & Human Services and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

This letter, endorsed by 150 of your colleagues in the House, sends a strong message of Congressional support for sustainable Medicare reimbursement rates and sensible regulatory policy for the HME sector. The policy changes sought in the letter, including long-term structural fixes for the competitive bidding program, relief for HME suppliers in rural areas who have faced drastic Medicare reimbursement cuts, addressing stationary oxygen rates in rural areas that have been recently cut, and keeping Complex Rehab Technology (CRT) accessories exempt from the application of competitive bidding-derived pricing, will help maintain access to critically needed HME products used by millions of Americans.

The letter's impact has already been demonstrated by CMS' announcement last week that CRT accessories will not be subject to pricing guided by the competitive bidding program. This policy change will help ensure positive healthcare outcomes and improved quality of life for individuals with significant disabilities who depend on highly specialized CRT mobility products. Caregivers, medical professionals, and communities who support these individuals can also rest easier knowing that access to CRT products will not be threatened by the kind of unsustainable pricing associated with the Medicare bidding program for HME.

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The home medical equipment industry is proud to provide clinically proven, patient-preferred, and cost-effective products and services to millions of individuals across the nation. We look forward to working with you to make sure that senior citizens, people with disabilities, and individuals with chronic conditions receive the high level of home-based care they deserve today and for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Ryan" clearly distinguishable.

Thomas Ryan
President & CEO
American Association for Homecare