A Note on Contacting Your Representatives

As a way to help you contact your senators and representatives, we've created a form letter you can use to illustrate how damaging collective bidding can be, especially in rural areas. However, we encourage you to share your own story to have the greatest impact. In our experience, form letters often see less attention than letters that are wholly original.

You are welcome to simply fill in the form letter with your information. Sending this is far better than remaining silent. But, including your own story—how competitive bidding directly affects you and your patients—is the best way to explain the gravity of the situation and helps frame the discussion.

Below, you'll find a version of the form letter with the more general information removed and ideas for what you might include to help get you started.

If you have any other questions, please know that you are welcome to reach out to us.

EXAMPLE:

I am a constituent who needs your help.

[Introduce yourself and your area]

Since January 1, 2016, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented extreme price reductions for life-sustaining medical equipment (by upwards of 50-80%) across rural America as a part of their Competitive Bidding Program. In December, Congress responded, retroactively delaying the cuts for six months. However, this temporary relief has expired, and the drastic cuts are in effect once more.

[Give a specific example of the pressures the Competitive Bidding Program is placing on you, how it affects your patients, and your area.]

Constituents, like myself, need your help.

Please help push for a joint solution for rural relief as soon as possible. Your action will help protect millions of Americans from losing access to this vitally needed home medical equipment and related services.

Seniors, people with disabilities or chronic conditions, and caregivers who depend on these essential products in rural and small communities across the nation are counting on you!

Sincerely,

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