

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

United States House of Representatives     United States Senate

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

I am a constituent who needs your help.

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.

These irrational, unsustainable prices do not take into account the additional costs of accessing and serving this rural population.

Without adequate funding to cover the costs of serving Medicare beneficiaries in rural America, many small homecare businesses are being forced to close, putting area seniors and individuals with disabilities at risk.

The Senate and House must come together in the new Congress to pass meaningful reform and send legislation to the white house.

Medical equipment access issues have been on the rise for items like walkers, wheelchairs, and oxygen since Medicare expanded the competitive bidding program to rural areas last January. Local home medical equipment providers, who help patients maintain the highest quality of life, have been struggling to stay open. **Many have closed their doors.** Without access to the trusted local companies patients rely on, patients are having difficulty obtaining equipment, services, and supplies.

There are many more examples of patients being hurt by this program, and without immediate action, there will be many more.

**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,

\_\_\_\_\_