

August 19, 2003

To the Editor, the Houston Chronicle:

I am writing in reference to your front-page article concerning Medicare fraud (*Sunday, August 17*) on behalf of the Power Mobility Coalition (PMC), a national alliance of suppliers and manufacturers that provide motorized wheelchairs and scooters to Medicare beneficiaries.

The PMC welcomes your reporting on these abuses of this vital program and applauds the combined efforts of the investigative team that has documented the fraud. After suspecting such impropriety in the Houston area, the PMC shared its concerns with Medicare and law enforcement officials and encouraged them to weed out fraud and abuse.

One of our primary goals is to improve the quality of durable medical equipment suppliers in our industry by encouraging the effective use of stringent standards, state licensure, corporate accreditation and consistent enforcement of regulations. We will continue to participate actively in these efforts to assure consumers enjoy the freedom and mobility provided by legitimate suppliers.

If a Medicare beneficiary is approached, they should ask the supplier two simple questions to help ensure legitimacy:

- How long have they been an approved Medicare supplier?
- Will they work with your treating physician or does the supplier require you to work with one they recommend?

Those interested in more information about the Power Mobility Coalition may visit its web site at www.pmcoalition.org

Sincerely,
Tim Zipp
President
Power Mobility Coalition