

Dear PMC Members:

Please note that the deadline for Congressmen to sign onto the House competitive bidding letter being circulated by Rep. Betty Sutton (D-OH) has been extended. House offices now have until **Tuesday, April 14, at 12 noon** to add their support to Rep. Betty Sutton's **sign-on letter** to CMS and the White House. Congress is currently in a two week recess and can be reached through their district offices or through their staff in Washington, D.C.

Below is the message the PMC sent earlier in the week with details on how providers can reach out to their Congressional delegations and urge them to sign-on to the Sutton letter (see attached).....

As you are aware, the Power Mobility Coalition (PMC) opposes the mandatory consolidation of home medical equipment (HME) through competitive bidding. Such a provision would lead to a restriction in access to quality HME to needy beneficiaries, thousands of providers losing their jobs and an incentive for those providers who remain in the Medicare program to purchase inferior HME from overseas vendors.

Despite these and many other concerns, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rushed to release an interim final rule (IFR) implementing the competitive bidding program. By releasing the regulation as an IFR, CMS bypassed traditional notice and comment, ensuring that the competitive bidding program will be implemented without any analysis of the aborted first round and absent any input or recommendations from impacted stakeholders.

To ensure that concerns are properly identified and rectified prior to implementation of any competitive bidding program, Rep. Betty Sutton (D-OH), a member of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, has drafted a "Dear Colleague" calling on CMS to rescind the IFR. I have attached a draft of Rep. Sutton's "Dear Colleague" and ask that your Boss consider signing on. Support of the "Dear Colleague" will not mean that your office supports scraping competitive bidding for HME, only that proper notice and comment be given to ensure past problems with its implementation are not repeated in the future.

The **deadline for signatures is April 9th**. Those interested in signing-on should contact Carla McNeill in Rep. Sutton's office at Carla.McNeill@mail.house.gov or 5-3401.

Many thanks for your consideration.

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