

National Competitive Bidding Lobbying Efforts

202-224-3121

To have the greatest impact you are asked to call both of your Senators, the Representative from your home town and the Representative from your work zip code. If you are not sure who your Representatives are you can provide the Capitol switchboard with your zip code information and they will connect you.

Prior to making the call know if your legislator has beneficiaries that live in a Round 1 or Round 2 area. Also know if your Representative has signed on to HR 2213. Lists have been provided below.

Telephone calls are often taken by a staff member and not the actual legislative member. Ask to speak with the **Health Legislative Aide**. If they are not available, you may also leave a message or ask for another congressional aide. If you speak with someone other than your legislator, take down their **name** and **title**.

Upon reaching your state legislator's office on the phone, it's easiest to follow these four basic steps:

- **IDENTIFY** yourself.

My name is _____ from _____ and I live/work in _____. My company provides much needed power mobility products to thousands of senior citizens and disabled Medicare beneficiaries throughout our state/district.

- **EXPLAIN** why you are calling. Don't assume that your legislator has prior knowledge of the issues. Be calm, respectful, and be prepared to educate your legislator using local examples to accentuate your point.

I am calling to talk about the **Medicare National Competitive Bidding Program**.

Round one of the Medicare National Competitive Bidding Program is scheduled to be implemented on July 1st, 2008 and I am very concerned about that. My company (pick the scenario that is applicable)

1. Participated in Round 1 and was erroneously disqualified from the program because _____, which we strongly disagree with.
2. Participated in Round 1 and was a winning bidder; however, I do not believe that our contract signing decision was based on accurate information from CMS. I am aware that a number of bidders were erroneously disqualified from my area and believe that the pool has been compromised.
3. Participated in Round 1 and was not a winning bidder; however, I strongly believe that there are so many fundamental, procedural and operational flaws in the program that I am not convinced this is accurate.
4. Is in a Round 2 Metropolitan Statistical Area and I am concerned that the fundamental, procedural and operational flaws that have surfaced in Round 1 will be perpetuated in Round 2 and beyond.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has told us that they would review this situation; however, they have no plan as to how they would include providers that are found to have met the bid requirements, how they would re-calculate the single payment amounts or if they would allow bid winners to reevaluate their contract decision. My concern is that the procedural flaws and operational irregularities that have been experienced in Round 1 will be perpetuated in Round 2 if Congress does not exercise oversight of this program.

In addition, I have a serious concern that Medicare has continued to allow Complex Rehab power wheelchairs, such as the one Christopher Reeves used, to be included in the National Competitive Bidding program. We sell and service highly complex power wheelchairs for people with permanent disabilities that are configured specifically for them. These are not commodity type items that should have been competitively bid.

Can you tell me how Senator / Representative _____ views this issue?

- **ASK** for your legislator to do something. Be specific as to what you want them to do. Ask for a commitment.

I would like to ask Senator / Representative _____ to do two things.

1. I would like for him/her to urge CMS to delay round one immediately and stop plans to expand the program to 70 more areas until a thorough review and analysis of Round 1 is conducted.
2. On behalf of your elderly and disabled constituents my company helps daily I would like to:
 - a. (If co-sponsor of HR 2231- see list below) Thank him/her for supporting HR 2231 and request that he/she urge his/her fellow Congressmen to sign onto this important bill.
 - b. (If NOT a co-sponsor of HR 2231- see list below) Request that Representative _____ sign onto HR 2231 with the other 38 Representatives who already have.
 - c. Request that Senator _____ sponsor companion legislation to HR 2231.

- **REQUEST** a written response to your phone call if you did not speak to your legislative member. If the legislator requires further information, provide it as soon as possible.

- **THANK** the person who took the phone call for their time and consideration.

H.R.2231 Title: To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exempt complex rehabilitation products and assistive technology products from the Medicare competitive acquisition program. **Sponsor:** [Rep Allen, Thomas H.](#) [ME-1] (introduced 5/9/2007)

COSPONSORS(38), ALPHABETICAL

Rep Akin, W. Todd [MO-2] - 8/3/2007	Rep Altmire, Jason [PA-4] - 11/9/2007
Rep Blackburn, Marsha [TN-7] - 7/18/2007	Rep Boucher, Rick [VA-9] - 9/19/2007
Rep Boyda, Nancy E. [KS-2] - 12/6/2007	Rep Cohen, Steve [TN-9] - 9/19/2007
Rep Costello, Jerry F. [IL-12] - 6/7/2007	Rep Davis, David [TN-1] - 6/7/2007
Rep Drake, Thelma D. [VA-2] - 12/17/2007	Rep Duncan, John J., Jr. [TN-2] - 6/28/2007
Rep Etheridge, Bob [NC-2] - 12/6/2007	Rep Frank, Barney [MA-4] - 12/17/2007
Rep Gohmert, Louie [TX-1] - 12/6/2007	Rep Gordon, Bart [TN-6] - 5/24/2007
Rep Graves, Sam [MO-6] - 10/25/2007	Rep Hastings, Doc [WA-4] - 6/28/2007
Rep Honda, Michael M. [CA-15] - 12/17/2007	Rep Kanjorski, Paul E. [PA-11] - 6/15/2007
Rep Kennedy, Patrick J. [RI-1] - 12/6/2007	Rep Lewis, Ron [KY-2] - 5/9/2007
Rep McGovern, James P. [MA-3] - 11/9/2007	Rep McNulty, Michael R. [NY-21] - 7/19/2007
Rep Michaud, Michael H. [ME-2] - 7/18/2007	Rep Murphy, Patrick J. [PA-8] - 10/25/2007
Rep Myrick, Sue Wilkins [NC-9] - 7/18/2007	Rep Pastor, Ed [AZ-4] - 2/6/2008
Rep Peterson, Collin C. [MN-7] - 6/7/2007	Rep Price, David E. [NC-4] - 6/26/2007
Rep Price, Tom [GA-6] - 7/24/2007	Rep Ross, Mike [AR-4] - 2/6/2008
Rep Rothman, Steven R. [NJ-9] - 7/24/2007	Rep Sestak, Joe [PA-7] - 2/6/2008
Rep Sutton, Betty [OH-13] - 8/3/2007	Rep Walsh, James T. [NY-25] - 12/6/2007
Rep Wamp, Zach [TN-3] - 7/24/2007	Rep Welch, Peter [VT] - 11/15/2007
Rep Wilson, Heather [NM-1] - 12/6/2007	Rep Young, C.W. Bill [FL-10] - 4/9/2008

The first 10 areas (CBAs) where the program is scheduled to be implemented July 1, 2008 include:

1. Charlotte, NC (parts of SC)
2. Cincinnati, OH
3. Cleveland, OH
4. Dallas, TX
5. Kansas City, MO (parts of KS)
6. Miami, FL
7. Orlando, FL
8. Pittsburgh, PA
9. Riverside, CA
10. San Juan, Puerto Rico

The next 70 areas where the program is scheduled to be implemented in 2009 include:

Northeast

Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton , PA -NJ

Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk , CT

Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford , CT

New Haven-Milford, CT

New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA

Scranton --Wilkes-Barre , PA

Syracuse , NY

South

Asheville , NC

Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA

Augusta-Richmond County , GA -SC

Austin-Round Rock, TX

Baton Rouge , LA

Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX

Birmingham-Hoover , AL

Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL

Charleston-North Charleston , SC

Chattanooga , TN-GA

Columbia , SC

Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach , FL

El Paso , TX

Greensboro-High Point , NC

Greenville-Mauldin-Easley , SC

Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX

Jackson , MS

Jacksonville , FL

Knoxville , TN

Lakeland , FL

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR

Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN

Midwest

Akron , OH

Chicago-Naperville-Joliet , IL-IN-WI

Columbus , OH

Dayton , OH

Detroit-Warren-Livonia , MI

Flint , MI

Grand Rapids-Wyoming , MI

Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH

Indiana polis-Carmel , IN

Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI

Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington , MN-WI

Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA

Toledo , OH

Wichita , KS

Youngstown-Warren-Boardman , OH –PA

McAllen-Edinburg-Mission , TX

Memphis, TN-MS-AR

Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin , TN

New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA

Ocala , FL

Oklahoma City , OK

Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL

Raleigh-Cary , NC

Richmond , VA

San Antonio , TX

Tampa-St. Petersburg -Clearwater , FL

Tulsa , OK

Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC

West

Albuquerque , NM

Bakersfield , CA

Colorado Springs , CO

Denver-Aurora , CO

Fresno , CA

Las Vegas-Paradise, NV

Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana , CA

Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville, CA

Salt Lake City , UT

San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA

San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont , CA

San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA

Visalia-Porterville, CA