

SAMPLE LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT H.R. 1845

DATE

The Honorable [*first name/last name*]
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20015

Dear Representative _____ :

I am writing to ask your support for H.R. 1845, a bill introduced March 29, 2007 by Representatives John Tanner (D-TN) and David Hobson (R-OH). The bill, "The Medicare Durable Medical Equipment Access Act," would significantly help my company be able to provide quality home medical equipment items and services to beneficiaries in their homes.

[insert description of your company, number employees, number of consumers/beneficiaries you serve, types of products/services you provide, etc.]

CMS issued April 10, 2007 the final regulation implementing the program, is collecting bids from providers in the first ten large metropolitan areas, and plans to implement the program beginning April 1, 2008. I am very concerned about the ability of my company to win a bid in my area. If I do not win the bid, I will be excluded from the marketplace, and my business will likely be forced to close. The Tanner-Hobson bill would fix this by allowing any willing provider to participate in the program at the bid rate.

H.R. 1845 does not repeal competitive acquisition for DME. It seeks to make modest changes to the structure of the competitive acquisition in order ensure beneficiaries' access to DME is maintained, protect small business providers of DME, and foster a dynamic marketplace for Medicare reimbursed DME.

The most innovative and cost effective health care marketplace is one in which a large number of suppliers/providers are competing for business. Approximately 80% of DME suppliers are small businesses, such as mine, that may be ill equipped to participate in the federal contracting process. However, small providers are an important part of the DME marketplace and seniors, so this bill aims to make competitive acquisition work for us.

Seniors are the real benefactors here. If a significant portion of small suppliers are eliminated because of the federal contracting process, competition in the market place will diminish, prices will increase, and quality will erode. Senior will no longer have their choice of provider. This bill aims to prevent that.

Again, I urge you to sign on to H.R. 1845 as a co-sponsor. I will follow up with you and your office shortly to discuss this important issue in more detail.

Sincerely,

Name
Company, address, etc.
Home address