

[DATE]

The Honorable Mehmet Oz, M.D.
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director, Office of Management and
Budget
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Administrator Oz and Director Vought:

We write to express our concerns regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) proposed Calendar Year (CY) Home Health proposed rule's inclusion of ostomy, urological, and tracheostomy supplies in the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program. We respectfully request that the proposal for inclusion of these products be withdrawn as we believe it would conflict with the Administration's goals to strengthen American manufacturing, secure our medical supply chains from foreign adversaries, and protect the health and well-being of our nation's most vulnerable citizens.

Our offices have received numerous communications from constituents, including seniors who rely on these critical prosthetic devices daily to maintain their employment, independence, health, and dignity. These individuals, and the doctors and nurses who care for them, understand better than anyone that ostomy, urological, and tracheostomy supplies are not commodity items that should be subjected to a "lowest bidder" procurement model. They are highly individualized prosthetics, which replace or restore critical bodily functions. The precise fit and clinical appropriateness of these products are matters of life and death for millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

We firmly believe in the Administration's commitment to American manufacturing and supply chain independence. In the U.S. today, manufacturing of ostomy, urological and tracheostomy products is in further need of growth and support. To bid these items sends the wrong message to our U.S. manufacturers who employ engineers, researchers, and product developers and U.S. suppliers who employ thousands of workers in good-paying jobs, contributing to local economies in rural and other communities across the nation. Competitive bidding threatens to destroy many of these businesses overnight, transferring this market to foreign competitors who have no commitment to American workers, American communities, or American patients.

We are equally concerned the proposal does not consider the economic impact that would result from health consequences if these prosthetic products are included in the competitive bidding program. Ostomy, urological, and tracheostomy supplies represent a relatively small portion of overall Medicare spending, and these products, despite their significance for patients, are low cost. Any savings that might possibly be achieved through competitive bidding will be more

than offset by the increased costs associated with managing health care complications, serious kidney and skin infections, emergency department visits, and hospitalizations that inevitably result when patients receive inappropriate or poorly-fitted devices.

With this feedback, we respectfully urge the Administration to withdraw this proposal and instead focus on targeted enforcement measures to address any fraudulent Medicare providers while preserving patient access to all clinically appropriate prosthetic devices from qualified American businesses. We look forward to continuing to work with the Administration to protect both our domestic medical supply chain and the health and dignity of millions of Medicare beneficiaries who depend on these essential prosthetic products. Together we can ensure that Medicare policy always reflects the Administration's core principles of America First, patient choice, and clinical excellence.

Sincerely,

Representative Neal Dunn
Representative Greg Murphy

[Congressional Signatures]

PLEASE SIGN BY FRIDAY OCTOBER 3:

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