

The Honorable Mazie Hirono
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hirono,

As you know, the Competitive Bidding Program for DMEPOS (Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies) has severely cut reimbursement to providers in areas outside of the Competitively Bid Areas (CBAs), including rural communities, as of January 1, 2016. When these cuts are fully implemented on July 1, 2016, the majority of products will have an average cut of approximately 42% and some products will suffer cuts as high as 50%. These cuts have been implemented without regard for the significant cost differences that rural providers face relative to their urban counterparts in Honolulu and even more so on the mainland.

The cuts this time around are so severe, that I now have no access to this benefit on the island where I reside. While we have few providers of this type of service in our community to begin with, I now have no provider that is willing to accept the Medicare reimbursement for these products and/or services in my community.

These providers work diligently to ensure that I have access to delivery, set-up assistance and prompt service when problems arise. This benefit is a promise made by the Federal government to all qualifying citizens of the United States. The promise was made that covered services would be made available on a cost shared basis to people like myself who have life changing needs. DME products and services are a cost effective way for our seniors to be cared for at home rather than in institutional facilities. Please have CMS rescind these drastic cuts and negotiate directly with the Hawaii rural providers so these needed services can be resumed. Investing in DME saves Medicare overall and is a valuable benefit to contain costs and provide better health outcomes.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schatz,

As you know, the Competitive Bidding Program for DMEPOS (Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies) has severely cut reimbursement to providers in areas outside of the Competitively Bid Areas (CBAs), including rural communities, as of January 1, 2016. When these cuts are fully implemented on July 1, 2016, the majority of products will have an average cut of approximately 42% and some products will suffer cuts as high as 50%. These cuts have been implemented without regard for the significant cost differences that rural providers face relative to their urban counterparts in Honolulu and even more so on the mainland.

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Sincerely,

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
1609 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gabbard,

As you know, the Competitive Bidding Program for DMEPOS (Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies) has severely cut reimbursement to providers in areas outside of the Competitively Bid Areas (CBAs), including rural communities, as of January 1, 2016. When these cuts are fully implemented on July 1, 2016, the majority of products will have an average cut of approximately 42% and some products will suffer cuts as high as 50%. These cuts have been implemented without regard for the significant cost differences that rural providers face relative to their urban counterparts in Honolulu and even more so on the mainland.

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