

## **Petition against the 36-month oxygen cap**

A portion of the Senate Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which was passed by Congress earlier this year, include a provision which would negatively impact the lives of all oxygen users now and in the future if left unchanged. This legislation requires persons using oxygen to assume ownership of and responsibility for their own home oxygen equipment after 36 months of rental, under Medicare. The law provides only a vague reference to services and maintenance of the equipment to be determined, which is assumed to be only once every 6 months. Who will trouble shoot the equipment in the interim? Who will have the knowledge that if something has gone wrong with the equipment, the regulators, the filters, that there is indeed “something wrong” and someone needs to be called? The answer is: it now becomes the Medicare patient’s responsibility to know how to analyze the equipment’s functioning. **AND THAT IS WRONG!** Not only does this sever the patient/provider relationship for home oxygen therapy, it raises numerous patient safety concerns.

H.R. 5513, otherwise known as the “Home Oxygen Patient Protection Act of 2006” was introduced jointly by two members of Congress, both of whom are also physicians and therefore, understand the negative clinical results if patients become responsible for complex oxygen equipment. This bill would revert Medicare oxygen coverage back to its previous state allowing for ongoing maintenance and support from respiratory therapists and medical equipment companies. There is also a companion bill in the Senate, which is S. 3814. Please lend your support by signing this petition as we try to pass this bill and thank these people who have worked hard and have paid their debt to society. Our government must NOT turn its back on its people again!

We, the undersigned, are in favor of and support H.R. 5513 and S. 3814, Home Oxygen Patient Protection Act of 2006:

| <b>NAME (please print and sign)</b> | <b>ADDRESS</b> | <b>PHONE</b> |
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