

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

February 18, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

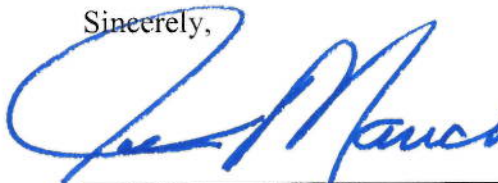
Dear Secretary Burwell:

We are writing to express our concern about the full implementation of the final rule to apply the prices established under the Competitive Bidding Program for DMEPOS (Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies) to providers in areas outside the Competitively Bid Areas (CBAs), including rural communities. We urge you to delay the pending round of reimbursement cuts scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2016.

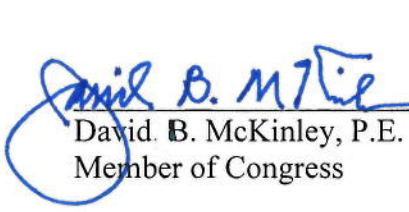
As you know, under the final rule, the reimbursement rates for providers of durable medical equipment in non-CBAs are being dramatically reduced without sufficient regard for the significant cost differences that rural providers face relative to their urban counterparts within the CBAs. The first round of cuts were implemented on January 1, 2016 and the small businesses in West Virginia that provide durable medical equipment to our seniors are struggling to make ends meet. If the second round of cuts goes into effect before we have the opportunity to fully understand the impact of the current reimbursement rates, we run the risk of losing many of these important providers and seniors will lose access to the equipment they need from the people they have come to trust.

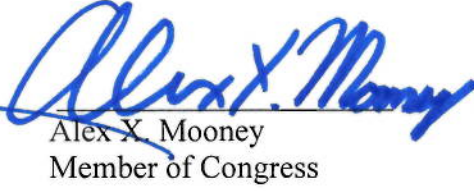
West Virginia is a rural state and our seniors rely on the compassionate care that our small businesses provide, including home delivery, set-up assistance, and prompt service when problems arise. We hope that you will take into account the unique challenges that small providers in our rural state face and work to delay the cuts to DME reimbursements scheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

  
David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

  
Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress

  
Evan H. Jenkins  
Member of Congress