



AMEPA NEWSLETTER
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Washington push on Bidding Eve nets more co-sponsors for 3790

Rob Brant, AMEPA President

Yesterday Sean Schwinghammer, Executive Director for both the Florida Alliance of Home Care Services (FAHCS) and the Texas Alliance of Home Care Services (TAHCS), and I traveled the halls of the House Office Buildings, in Washington, asking for support of HR-3790 before the bid window opened. I am happy to report that we have commitments from multiple legislators from both Florida and Texas for the budget neutral bill to repeal the flawed DMEPOS bidding program and that we were not alone in our efforts.

Wendy Russalesi, the Executive Director of the Jersey Association of Medical Equipment Services (JAMES), invited Sean and I to accompany her to a few meetings to describe the results from "Ground Zero in Round One". Later in the day Wendy told me that she had several commitments and Representative Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ) has officially signed on as a co-sponsor.

Additionally, Congressman Bill Posey (R-FL), whose district is in the Orlando MSA, has also become a co-sponsor of the bill, as well as Licoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL) from Miami.

Walking through the house halls I bumped into Georgie Blackburn, vice chair of AAHomecare and one of the outspoken leaders of the Pennsylvania Association of Medical Services (PAMS). I was also told that a representative from the New York Medical Equipment Providers (NYMEP) association was speaking to legislators in Washington, as well. Georgie also said she expected additional co-sponsors from Pennsylvania.

Please take a few minutes to Fax your U.S. Representative

We really need some more momentum. If your legislator is not listed below then please take a few minutes to do the following:

1) Look up your U.S. Representative at www.congress.gov
- simply enter your zip code of your home and each office location to find your U.S. Congressman/woman

2) Fill out a fax cover page addressed to: "Health LA" for each of your representatives and note:

"Please co-sponsor HR 3790, a bi-partisan budget neutral repeal of the flawed DMEPOS Bidding Program. This bill will give congress the same savings that the program was projected to give, without unnecessarily eliminating 90% of the local providers and without limiting a patient's access to quality products and timely services. The bidding has already begun and we need support as quickly as possible."

3) Print out the attached page and fax to their local and Washington, DC offices

[Click to view HR-3790 summary page to fax.](#)

The bill has at least 26 co-sponsors including:

California
Rep. Sam Farr (D)

Colorado
Rep. Betsy Markey (D)

Florida
Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R)
Rep. Alcee Hastings (D)
Rep. Ron Klein (D)
Rep. Bill Posey (R)
Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D)
Rep. Robert Wexler (D)

Georgia
Rep. John Barrow (D)

Iowa
Rep. Bruce Braley (D)

Massachusetts

Rep. Barney Frank (D)

Missouri

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R)

New Jersey

Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R)

New York

Rep. Dan Maffei (D)

North Carolina

Rep. Heath Shuler (D)

Ohio

Rep. Steve Austria (R)

Rep. John Boccieri (D)

Rep. Marcia Fudge (D)

Rep. Tim Ryan (D)

Rep. Pat Tiberi (R)

Rep. Michael Turner (R)

Pennsylvania

Rep. Jason Altmire (D)

Rep. John Murtha (D)

Rep. Glenn Thompson (R)

Texas

Rep. Ralph Hall (R)

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D)

If you have additional time, call your congressman/woman and ask for the Health Legislative Assistant and talk to them about co-sponsoring HR-3790.

If you are interested and need help reply back to this email and we will be happy to assist you.

Thanks in advance and let us know about your progress!!!