

October 3, 2007

The Honorable Max Baucus
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2602

Dear Max:


As National Chairman of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, I'm writing on behalf of tens of thousands of Americans with neuromuscular disease, who rely on complex medical equipment and technology for mobility and independence, to urge you to support H.R. 2231, the Medicare Access to Complex Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Act of 2007.

If this bill isn't passed, current Medicare policy will limit those served by MDA and others with disabilities to one or two pre-selected equipment vendors, drastically reducing needed customer service as well as adaptation of equipment to an individual's needs. The threatened new policy will promote a "one-size-fits-all" concept of care and could have severely detrimental effect on the equipment consumers MDA represents.

H.R. 2231 exempts all "complex rehabilitation products and assistive technologies" from Medicare's competitive bidding program. Products fall within this category if they are "medically necessary adaptive seating, positioning, and mobility devices that are evaluated, fitted, configured, adjusted, or programmed to meet the specific needs of an individual with a primary diagnosis resulting from injury or trauma which is neuromuscular in nature." In short, this legislation will ensure that the medical and physical needs of untold thousands of Americans will continue to be taken into account in the provision of complex rehabilitation and assistive technology equipment.

Again, please support the Medicare Access To Complex Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Act of 2007, H.R. 2231.

Sincerely,



Jerry Lewis
National Chairman
Muscular Dystrophy Association