



October 7, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
 Speaker
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
 Majority Leader
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
 Minority Leader
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
 Minority Leader
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As leaders in the home respiratory community, we have seen first-hand how critically important home respiratory therapies have been during the COVID-19 pandemic in treating patients and helping communities manage hospital surges. Home respiratory therapies, including ventilators, home oxygen, and sleep therapies, continue to play an essential role in the recovery of many patients with COVID-19. We thank you for the support of health care providers and suppliers during the COVID-19 pandemic; however, we need your help again to protect access to these treatment options. On behalf the organizations listed below, we ask that you to prevent the four percent Medicare sequestration cut from taking effect and extend the moratorium on the two percent sequestration through the end of the public health emergency (PHE).

Our organizations represent the patients, suppliers, physicians, respiratory therapists, and manufacturers who comprise the home respiratory community. During the pandemic, they have been on the frontlines of the battle against COVID-19. Despite these challenges, they have continued to ensure that patients who require home respiratory equipment, suppliers, and services have been able to access them.

The looming four percent sequestration cut and reinstatement of the two percent cut threatens their ability to continue to provide that access. Supply chain issues have resulted in problems with manufacturing and repairing equipment, increasing costs across

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the board. Providers and suppliers have faced issues with accessing personal protective equipment, shipping delays, and workforce shortages. As a result, the cost of providing equipment and services to patients has risen to levels that have exceeded anyone's expectations.

While all of us had hoped that the pandemic would have ended by now, the reality is that it is likely to continue for some time. The economic challenges facing health care providers and suppliers will also likely remain in place into 2022. Therefore, we ask that the Congress take action now to rescind the trigger that would increase Medicare sequestration by an additional four percent. In addition, we ask that you extend the moratorium on the two percent sequestration through the end of the PHE to continue the relief the Congress has already recognized is necessary to maintain beneficiary access to need health care services during the pandemic. Nowhere is this relief more need than in the respiratory community where physicians, respiratory therapists, and oxygen suppliers been on the front lines of the pandemic.

We appreciate the efforts the Congress has already made to help address the challenges the home respiratory community has faced during the pandemic. We encourage you to take this additional step to maintain the viability of the Medicare home respiratory benefit and ensure that providers and suppliers who are still on the frontlines of battling the pandemic do not face the substantial and unsustainable cut from sequestration at the very time their costs are rising exponentially.

Sincerely,

AAHomecare
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alpha 1 Foundation
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Lung Association
American Thoracic Society
CHEST/American College of Chest Physicians
COPD Foundation
Council for Quality Respiratory Care
Dorney-Koppel Foundation
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
Respiratory Health Association
U.S. COPD Coalition
VGM & Associates