

# Follow-up Documents After Fly-In

## Supplemental Oxygen Sample Press Release for Local Press Coverage

### For Immediate Release

**Contact:** [Your Name], Society PR Person

Email: [Your Email Address]

### Local Respiratory Therapist Lobbies for Better Health Care in Washington, D.C.

[CITY, STATE] - [Day of the Week], [Date] - [Your Name & Credentials] traveled to Washington, D.C. with about 100 other respiratory therapists and patients to request members of Congress to support the Medicare Act.

[Your Last Name] is a respiratory therapist at [Name of Workplace] and lives in [Name of Residence City].

To help fix the problems created by the Medicare Competitive Bidding Program, the AARC has been working with a comprehensive coalition of oxygen stakeholders that includes providers, patients, and the durable medical equipment industry.

Of great importance to the respiratory care profession, the SOAR Act will establish a service benefit to pay respiratory therapists to see oxygen patients outside the care facility and in their home, which has never existed before under the durable medical equipment benefit. We ask you to co-sponsor this legislation to ensure anyone who requires supplemental oxygen can access the most appropriate type of oxygen equipment for their needs. Congress must prioritize patients and solve this problem.

The legislation is based on four pillars of reform:

1. Ensure supplemental oxygen is patient-centric.
2. Ensure access to liquid oxygen for patients for whom it is medically necessary.
3. Create a statutory service element to provide adequate reimbursement for respiratory therapists to ensure patients have access to their expertise.
4. To ensure predictable and adequate reimbursement and to protect against fraud and abuse, establish national standardized documentation requirements that rely upon a template rather than prescriber medical records to support claims for supplemental oxygen suppliers.

[Your Last Name] explains, "With the mounting costs to manage chronic diseases and avoid expensive exacerbations, [Your Last Name] met with [Name] and [Name] to ask their support for the Medicare Act. We think the timing is right to improve patients' access to expanded telehealth services and in particular to the unique skills of respiratory therapists who are trained experts in the care of patients' chronic respiratory diseases."

[Your Last Name] is a member of the Political Advocacy Contact Team (PACT), a nationwide group of respiratory therapists and patients organized by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) and the [Your State] Society for Respiratory Care to spearhead grassroots level advocacy efforts.

**About the AARC**

The American Association for Respiratory Care, headquartered in Dallas, is a professional association of respiratory therapists that focuses primarily on respiratory therapy education and research. The organization's goals are to ensure that respiratory patients receive safe and effective care from qualified professionals as well as supporting respiratory health care providers. Further information about the AARC and how to become a respiratory therapist is available at [www.AARC.org](http://www.AARC.org).

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## Telehealth Sample Press Release for Local Press Coverage

### For Immediate Release

#### Contact:

[Your Name], Society PR Person Phone: [Your Phone Number]

Email: [Your Email Address]

### Local Respiratory Therapist Lobbies for Better Health Care in Washington, D.C.

[CITY, STATE] - [Your Name & Credentials] traveled to Washington, D.C. with about 100 other respiratory therapists and patients to request members of Congress to support the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act, legislation that would expand patient access to telemedicine technology and provide pulmonary patients with access to the telehealth services of a respiratory therapist. The legislation is in the US House of Representatives as HR 1406 and in the Senate as Bill 3021.

[Your Last Name] is a respiratory therapist at [Name of Workplace] and lives in [Name of Residence City].

[Your Last Name] explains, "Using telehealth services to remotely monitor and manage the clinical condition of the patient and intervene proactively will help avoid a costly hospital admission or re-admission. Reducing hospital readmissions is a key Medicare priority. As part of the provisions of the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act, patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) living in rural or remote regions of the country where there is no easy access to medical facilities would be eligible to receive respiratory therapy telehealth services from a qualified respiratory therapist. In addition to easing the burden on the Medicare beneficiary, telehealth services are an efficient use of limited clinical resources which helps maximize care coordination across a wide range of clinical sites."

With the mounting costs to manage chronic diseases and avoid expensive exacerbations, [Your Last Name] met with [Name] and [Name] to ask their support for the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act. We think the timing is right to improve patients' access expanded telehealth services and in particular to the unique skills of respiratory therapists who are trained experts in the care of patients' chronic respiratory diseases.

[Your Last Name] is a member of the Political Advocacy Contact Team (PACT), a nationwide group of respiratory therapists and patients organized by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) and the [Your State] Society for Respiratory Care to spearhead grassroots level advocacy efforts.

### About the AARC

The American Association for Respiratory Care, headquartered in Dallas, is a professional association of respiratory therapists that focuses primarily on respiratory therapy education and research. The organization's goals are to ensure that respiratory patients receive safe and effective care from qualified professionals as well as supporting respiratory health care providers. Further information about the AARC and how to become a respiratory therapist is available at [www.AARC.org](http://www.AARC.org).

## Sample Thank You Letter

**Subject: Thank You Please co-sponsor  
SOAR Act: Senate Bill 3821; House Bill 7829  
PR Telehealth: House Bill 1406; Senate Bill 3021**

Dear [STAFF NAME],

I wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude for taking the time to meet with me and my fellow respiratory therapist colleagues on May 7 to discuss critical legislative issues affecting our profession and the patients we serve. Your willingness to engage in dialogue on oxygen reform legislation and the legislation regarding in-home cardiac and pulmonary rehab services under Medicare via telehealth is greatly appreciated.

During our meeting, I was particularly encouraged by

[SPECIFIC EXAMPLE FROM YOUR CONVERSATION, IF APPLICABLE].

Your attention to this matter demonstrates your commitment to understanding the challenges faced by respiratory therapists and the pulmonary patients in [LIST STATE].

On behalf of the respiratory therapists in [LIST STATE], I kindly request your support for legislation aimed at improving Medicare patient access to supplemental oxygen. I have attached a section-by-section analysis for your review, outlining the importance of ensuring patients have access to the form of oxygen that best meets their individual needs. Thank you for consideration of co-sponsorship of the SOAR Act: Senate Bill 3821; House Bill 7829.

Additionally, please feel free to reach out if you or your boss have any further questions regarding the Sustainable Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Services in the Home Act. For House offices, the bill is identified as H.R. 1406. For Senate offices the bill is S 3021.

I intend to share the insights gained from our conversation with my State Society for Respiratory Care. Your thoughtful consideration of these matters is invaluable, and I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with you.

Should you require any additional information or assistance from myself or any of my respiratory therapist colleagues, please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to our continued partnership in advocating for the advancement of respiratory care.

Warm regards,

[YOUR NAME] [YOUR ADDRESS]

CC: Miriam O'Day, Sr. Vice President Government Affairs, American Association for Respiratory Care