

SOAR Act Call-In Day

August 27, 2024



Welcome, Oxygen Advocates!

Thank you for being here!

Today's call is to build support in Congress for the SOAR Act - legislation that ensures anyone who requires supplemental oxygen can access the most appropriate type of oxygen – with the right quantity – for their needs.

At the end of this call, we will ask everyone to call your 3 members of Congress' offices to request they cosponsor the Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act.

Housekeeping

Questions will be addressed after the end of the presentation, but please feel free to ask any questions in the Question & Answer as they arise

Everyone will receive these slides and a link to the copy of this meeting recording via email.

Agenda

- Introductions and Our Coalition
- Background on Supplemental Oxygen
- The SOAR Act
- Making Your 3 Calls Today
- Questions
- Call Time!



Our Coalition



Our Team Today

Erika Sward, American Lung Association

Kate Gates, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation

Miriam O'Day, American Association for Respiratory Care

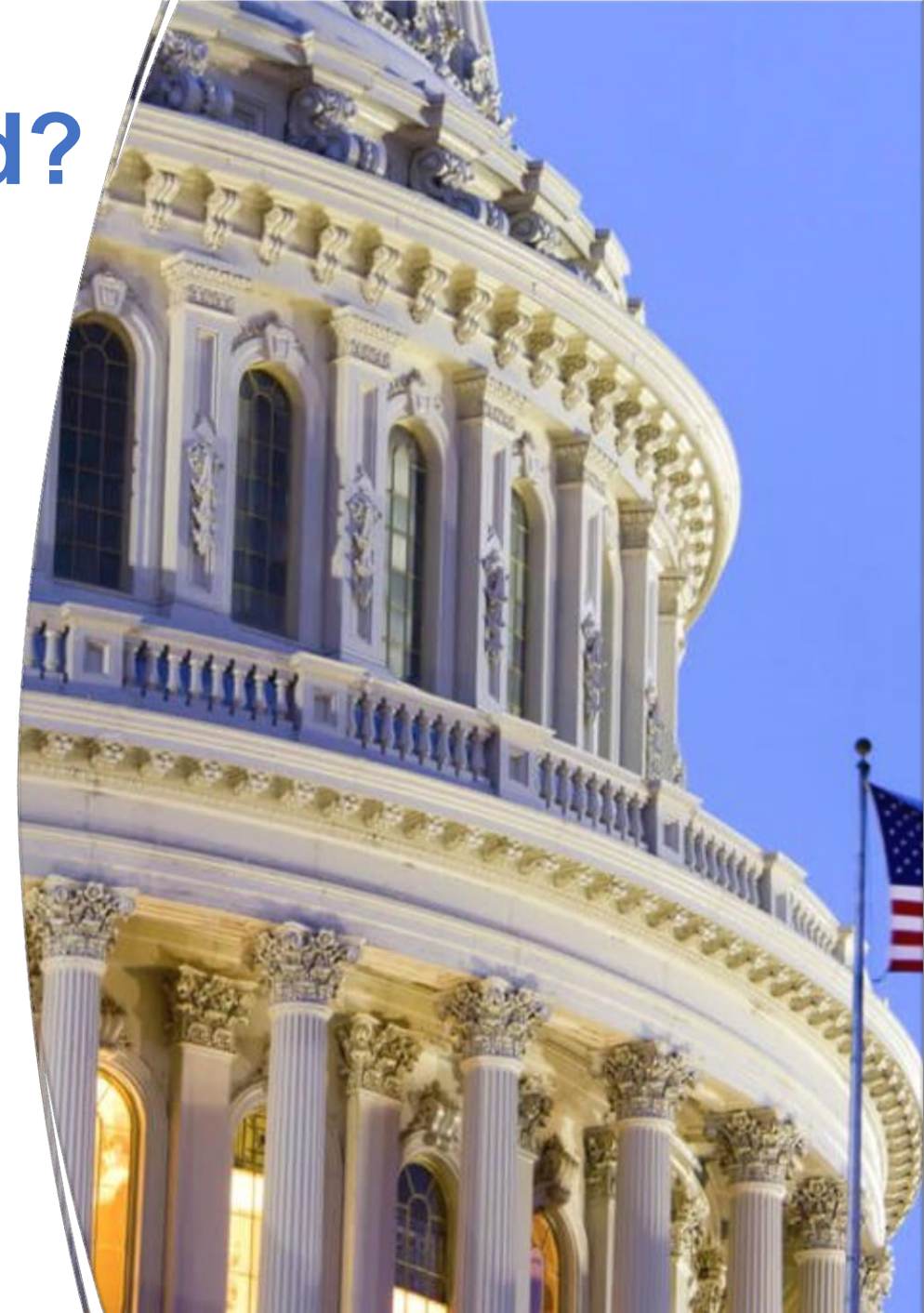
Background on Supplemental Oxygen

Why is Supplemental Oxygen So Important?

- Important treatment for patients with lung disease and heart disease
 - Advanced COPD
 - Pulmonary hypertension
 - Pulmonary fibrosis
 - Patients awaiting lung transplant
 - Other restrictive lung diseases including LAM, PCD and sarcoidosis
 - Congestive heart failure
- Research shows providing supplemental oxygen improves patient outcomes

How Did Access Get This Bad?

- Process for Medicare to set prices for medical equipment, including oxygen, based on bids submitted by companies – dropping everything to the lowest bidder.
- This resulted in pricing and availability challenges that made it difficult for many people to access oxygen equipment, particularly liquid oxygen, as vendors discontinued services.
- The lack of funding also led oxygen suppliers to stop providing RT services.



What Needs to be Fixed?

- People are stuck with heavy systems that limit or completely prevent them from leaving their house and being in the community.

This is not a portable system!



What Needs to be Fixed?

- Some may sacrifice appropriate oxygen flow – literally starving themselves of oxygen – so they can be outside for brief periods to complete simple tasks like buying groceries.



Low Flow



High Flow

Liquid Oxygen – What Is It?

Liquid oxygen is a lightweight, high flow modality of oxygen. It can allow people who need high-flow oxygen to leave their homes comfortably and safely



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Photo courtesy of CAIRE, Inc.

Liquid Oxygen - Issues with Access

- Liquid oxygen users dropped by approximately **80%** in the first few years of competitive bidding.
- Physicians prescribe liquid oxygen less often because of difficulties with access. Newer physicians may not realize they can prescribe it, and most of the US does not have liquid oxygen available.
- When liquid oxygen *is* prescribed, patients have significant challenges in receiving it. Some have been removed involuntarily from liquid.



Access to Respiratory Therapists

- Respiratory therapists are trained to help patients use their oxygen appropriately and ensure that it is properly calibrated to their needs.
- As oxygen reimbursement has decreased, companies have stopped offering access to respiratory therapist services to patients who need supplemental oxygen.

The SOAR Act – S. 3821 & H.R. 7829

Bipartisan Legislation

Senate – S. 3821

Senator Cassidy – R-LA

Senator Warner – D-VA

Senator Klobuchar – D-MN



House – H.R. 7829

Rep. Valadao – R-CA

Rep. Brownley – D-CA

Rep. Bucshon – R-IN

Rep. A. Smith – R-NE



Thank you, cosponsors!

- Zoe Lofgren, CA
- Jahana Hayes, CT
- Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC
- Bill Posey, FL
- Darren Soto, FL
- David Trone, MD
- Sen. Gary Peters, MI
- Rashida Tlaib, MI
- Dean Phillips, MN
- Alma Adams, NC
- Donald Davis, NC
- Deborah Ross, NC
- Michael Lawler, NY
- Cliff Bentz, OR
- Lori Chavez-DeRemer, OR
- Chrissy Houlahan, PA
- Sen. Marsha Blackburn, TN
- Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, WA

Four pillars for oxygen reform

- Ensure supplemental oxygen is patient centric:
Create a patients' bill of rights to ensure care is focused on patient needs



Four pillars for oxygen reform

- Ensure access to liquid oxygen for patients for whom it is medically necessary



Four pillars for oxygen reform

- Provide reimbursement for respiratory therapy as part of the oxygen service



Four pillars for oxygen reform

- Establish standardized documentation requirements



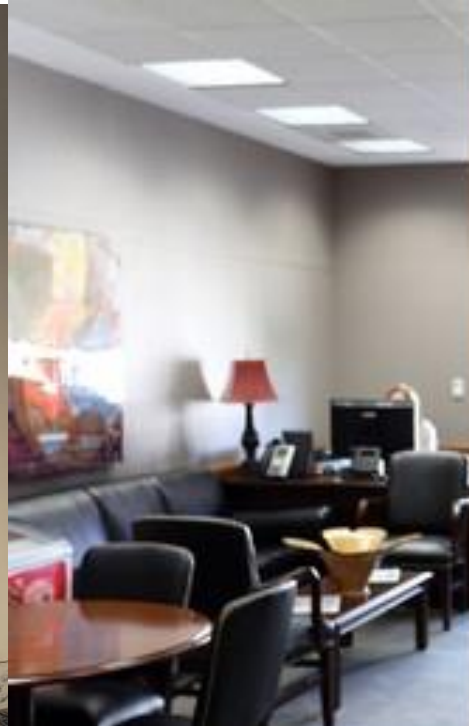
The Ask

*“Please cosponsor Supplemental Oxygen
Access Reform (SOAR) Act”*

S. 3821 and H.R. 7829

Making Your 3 Calls Today

Who Am I Calling and Why??



Calling is one of the most powerful ways to put pressure on your representatives – even more than social media, email, and especially snail mail.

Why?

It shows commitment to a cause. And representatives know that if they don't hear the concerns of their constituents, it could impact their ability to get reelected.

Phone Call Tips/Preparation

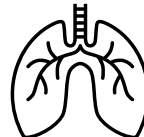
- It takes maybe 2 minutes to call one office, including the time it takes to look up their phone numbers.
- If your member of Congress has already cosponsored the SOAR Act, thank them!

Thank you, cosponsors!

- Julia Brownley, CA
- Zoe Lofgren, CA
- David Valadao, CA
- Jahana Hayes, CT
- Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC
- Bill Posey, FL
- Darren Soto, FL
- Larry Bucshon, IN
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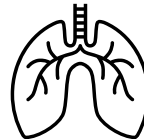
“Ask to Cosponsor” Script

- My name is [NAME] and I live in [THE TOWN/CITY IN WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE.]
 - I am calling today to ask the Senator/Representative to cosponsor the Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act, bipartisan legislation that will reform supplemental oxygen in Medicare.
- This legislation is important to me because [BRIEFLY SHARE YOUR OWN PERSONAL REASON FOR WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU.]
- I hope I can count on [Senator/Representative] to cosponsor this bipartisan legislation.
 - Thank you.



“Thank You” Script

- My name is [NAME] and I live in [THE TOWN/CITY IN WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE.]
- I am calling today to thank the [Senator/Representative] for cosponsoring the Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act.
- This legislation is important to me because [BRIEFLY SHARE YOUR OWN PERSONAL REASON FOR WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU.]
- Please let the [Senator/Representative] know how much we appreciate that they have cosponsored the SOAR Act.
 - Thank you.



[illegible]

- What personal examples do you have to share?
- How will your story “speak to” or bring to life your “ask”?
- What do you want Members/staff to remember most about you?

Phone Call Tips/Preparation

- Record questions for follow up.
 - Most of the time they will just tell you they will pass on your concern. They might read a prepared statement in response. They might even say that your rep is going to/not going to take action.
- Fill out the follow-up form that you've been emailed to let us know what your lawmakers say.

Questions?

TIME TO MAKE YOUR CALLS!



Call Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 or you can look up your 2 Senators' and 1 Representative's phone numbers at <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> and call them directly