

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To All Members of Congress and Secretary Leavitt,

I am a Medicare beneficiary and a recipient of the medically prescribed and necessary drug **Oxygen**. My oxygen service provider is an **accredited** home medical equipment company who currently provides me with services which include the following:

- ✓ Delivery of the appropriate oxygen equipment to my home whenever it is required.
- ✓ Explanation by a licensed respiratory therapist or trained technician on how to use the equipment.
- ✓ Routine testing and service to ensure their system is producing the highest percentage of oxygen.
- ✓ The timely replacement of bacteria and particle filters.
- ✓ Proper replacement of supplies including cannulas, masks, humidifier bottles and tubing.
- ✓ Supplying of additional portable gaseous or liquid oxygen systems as needed.
- ✓ Providing maintenance, repair and replacement of the equipment as needed 24/7.
- ✓ Ability to change the modality of the oxygen system as needed.
- ✓ On call support and education for safe & prescribed oxygen use 24/7.
- ✓ Reliance in emergency and disaster conditions for additional oxygen systems and support.

In the past, I have benefited from these services and in the future, I will likely continue to need some or all of the above services.

Traditionally, these services were paid for on a continuing monthly basis by Medicare to my provider. However, the new **36 month cap** on oxygen services **will end this situation** and replace it with what is a totally inadequate bi-annual payment. The payment to my provider for oxygen services, which I am informed, is substantially less than cost. That is why my provider has regretfully informed me that after the 36 month cap takes effect, they will not be able to provide me with my needed oxygen services.

I understand the proposed reimbursement by Medicare to continue my oxygen services will be approximately \$144 every 6 months, or an average of **\$24 per month**, which is **not enough**. Under these circumstances and to continue to preserve this essential oxygen service, I am urgently requesting that Congress and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services take the necessary action to indefinitely postpone the 36 month cap on oxygen.

On behalf of myself and my loved ones, I thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_