

The Jersey Association of Medical Equipment Services says YES to VGM's plan!

The Jersey Association of Medical Equipment Services (JAMES) would like to express its enthusiastic support for VGM's **Last Chance for Patient Choice** initiative. It has become clear that the HME industry, after tireless and unceasing efforts to work with the Congress and CMS to improve home medical care and contain costs, has been repeatedly stabbed in the back by certain congressional representatives who remain intent on ignoring any appeal to reason or compromise.

Instead, these Members of Congress have used last minute pressure tactics and legislative sleight of hand to trick their colleagues into passing unscrutinized legislation. These alarming amendments to the Medicare Act represent poorly tested health care theories and forcibly impose experimental programs upon millions of chronically ill and disabled Americans who were given no choice or opportunity to express their concerns in a legitimate democratic process. If any pharmaceutical firm had obtained approval for their drugs using these tactics they would surely be subject to criminal indictment.

Clearly, such behavior by certain legislators can no longer be tolerated. As thousands of lives and businesses are at risk, it is imperative that the HME industry seek both legal protection against these unscrupulous actions and work vigorously to educate the Medicare beneficiaries in the home districts of the actions of their congressmen.

We stand with VGM and urge every other state association to do the same.

Sincerely,

The Board of JAMES

Terri Maggio, Executive Director