

HME Congressional Marathon Gains Support

Last Chance for Patient Choice, a non-profit organization to support the fight against competitive bidding and other onerous health-care legislation, will be joined by legions of state associations for Congressional visits July 28-Aug. 7 at elected officials' home offices across the country.

LCPC is working closely with state associations and independent providers to set up the Meet and Greet Congressional Marathon, and is encouraging participants to bring oxygen patients and Medicare beneficiaries with them. LCPC will provide informational packets for elected officials and fact sheets that may be distributed to local media.

To date, NEMED, NYMEP, OAMES, PAMS, VADMEC, MESA, AZMESA, NCAMES, TRI-STATE, MAMES, MSAMES, AIHMES, IAMES and FAMES are scheduling meetings with their congressional representatives, reports John Gallagher, vice president of Last Chance.

"Last Chance believes that if representatives and senators truly understand the devastating effects the oxygen cap and selective contracting, a.k.a. competitive bidding, will have on patients, they will be shocked, and head back to Capitol Hill to make things right," said Gallagher.

LCPC's goals for the marathon, according to Gallagher, include:

- Introduce elected officials to real users of HME
- Educate elected officials about HME
- Gain support for HR 3559 and a Senate companion bill
- Gain support for HR 5513 to remove the oxygen cap
- Gain support for LCPC's Oxygen Patients' Bill of Rights

Those interested in participating or who would like more information, may contact Gallagher at 1-800-642-6065 or visit www.lastchanceforpatients.org.