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March 9, 2006

Mr. John Gallagher  
Vice President—Government Relations  
The VGM Group  
1111 W. San Marnan Drive  
Waterloo, IA 50704

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Medical Equipment Suppliers Association (MESA) has voted to throw this organization's support behind the Last Chance for Patient Choice initiative.

With the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) and its deep reimbursement cuts, this industry has already suffered repeated, staggering blows at the hands of legislators who either can't or won't understand the consequences of their decisions.

That Congress is even considering "selective contracting" is both alarming and irresponsible.

Those who can sustain the impact the least—the chronically ill and disabled, many on small or fixed incomes—will ultimately suffer the most. They will see their access to care and their quality of life diminished, while the beneficiaries of such misguided legislation get fat from the profits.

If only members of Congress didn't have the generous healthcare coverage they voted themselves, and had to settle for the crumbs they seem willing to throw the American public! Would we have seen the MMA pass then? Or the caps on oxygen equipment rentals? Or would they vote in favor of competitive bidding?

MESA applauds the efforts of The VGM Group as it moves this initiative forward, and joins the Jersey Association of Medical Equipment Services (JAMES) in standing ready to work with you in attempt to put a stop to the devastation.

Sincerely,

Liz Moran  
MESA Executive Vice President