

Monday, May 5, 2025

House Speaker Mike Johnson  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Senate Majority Leader John Thune  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Urgent Need to Protect Medicaid Beneficiary Access to Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, & Supplies (DMEPOS)**

Dear Senators Thune and Schumer, and Representatives Johnson and Jeffries:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write with urgency about the need to protect Medicaid beneficiary access to durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) as policymakers consider Medicaid budget adjustments.

Our organizations represent consumer- and clinician-led groups dedicated to ensuring access to essential medical equipment for millions of individuals who rely on it to manage their health needs at home. Medicaid serves over 72 million Americans, including low-income families, children, seniors, and people with disabilities – populations that experience higher rates of chronic illness and complex medical needs.

DMEPOS plays a vital role in enabling safe, cost-effective, and patient-preferred care at home. However, reductions in Medicaid reimbursement or coverage for DMEPOS could:

- **Jeopardize access** to critical medical equipment and supplies
- **Increase hospitalizations, emergency department (ED) visits, and institutional care**, driving up overall healthcare costs
- **Undermine patient health and independence**, forcing individuals into more expensive and less preferred settings of care

Medicaid is a lifeline for individuals managing chronic conditions and disabilities, particularly through long-term care services and supports (LTSS). More than half of Medicaid spending is allocated to long-term care, with 72% of these services delivered in home and community based settings (HCBS). Home-based care is not only preferred by end users but also fiscally responsible.

Protecting Medicaid coverage for DMEPOS supports end users' health, independence, and taxpayer savings.

For millions of Americans, Medicaid is the only avenue to access essential medical equipment and supplies. Medicaid coverage improves health care access:

- 46.6% of uninsured adults go without medical visits compared to 14.2% of Medicaid adults.
- 22.6% of uninsured adults forgo needed care due to cost vs 7.7% of Medicaid adults.

Restricting coverage or reducing reimbursement for DMEPOS could exacerbate health disparities, increase preventable hospitalizations, and place greater financial strain on both state and federal budgets. Preserving coverage ensures Medicaid remains a sustainable, cost-effective program that supports better health outcomes, fiscal responsibility, and Medicaid beneficiaries' dignity.

We urge you to protect Medicaid coverage and reimbursement for DMEPOS to ensure individuals can continue receiving high-quality, cost-effective care at home. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and appreciate your commitment to policies that prioritize patient health and responsible healthcare spending.

Sincerely,

Access Ready Inc.  
All Wheels Up  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Physical Therapy Association  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
Clinician Task Force  
COPD Foundation  
Institute for Matching Person & Technology  
International Registry of Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers  
Lakeshore Foundation  
National Association for Continence  
The Oley Foundation, Inc.  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
Spina Bifida Association  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Ostomy Associations of America  
United Spinal Association  
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society