



www.vgmdclink.com

The Current Status of Legislative Activity

Legislative update

VGM Meets with Senator Grassley

VGM's John Gallagher met with Senator Grassley today to discuss the Medicare Physician Fee Fix that was highlighted in the October 18th Legislative Update from VGM ([click here to view Update from 10/18](#)). In their meeting, Gallagher hand delivered a letter from both Van Miller, CEO of VGM and Jim Walsh, President and General Council of VGM to the Senator, asking him to *"keep the possible cuts to HME at the forefront to ensure that this industry does not suffer from additional cuts to both oxygen and power wheelchairs."* Gallagher received positive feedback from Senator Grassley who stated that although he was the only voice against cuts to DME two years ago, he has learned that today, Senate Finance Committee members: Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Pat Roberts (R-KS), and Mike Crapo (R-ID) are now voicing similar concerns, which include rural healthcare and quality care for both oxygen and PMD patients. **The Senator also indicated that Congress has received several phone calls from their constituents, proving that the phone calls to Congress are working.**



To view Van Miller and Jim Walsh's letter to Grassley, please [click here](#).

Keep picking up the phones to call Congress. If you've already made the call, get your friends, families, and beneficiaries to call as well. For directions on how to contact Congress and for talking points, please refer to the [Legislative Update](#) from October 18th. It is especially important that the Members of the Finance Committee hear from their constituents.

Below is a list of Senate Finance Committee members:

Democrats (11)

Republicans (10)

Max Baucus, MT, *Chair*

John D. Rockefeller IV, WV

Charles E. Grassley, IA, *Ranking Member*

Kent Conrad, ND

Orrin G. Hatch, UT

Jeff Bingaman, NM

Trent Lott, MS

John F. Kerry, MA

Olympia J. Snowe, ME

Blanche L. Lincoln, AR

Jon L. Kyl, AZ

Ron Wyden, OR

Craig Thomas, WY

Charles E. Schumer, NY

Gordon Smith, OR

Debbie A. Stabenow, MI

Jim Bunning, KY

Maria Cantwell, WA

Mike Crapo, ID

Ken Salazar, CO

Pat Roberts, KS

If your Senator is not a member of the Finance Committee, urge him/her to speak with either Chairman Baucus or Ranking Member Grassley to ensure that no further cuts are included in the Medicare reform legislation referred to as the “doc fix.”