

Members of Congress Sign “Dear Colleague” Letter to Protect Access to Noninvasive Ventilators

As a result of the efforts of ALS advocates like you, more than 38 Senators and 178 House members have signed a “Dear Colleague” letter urging the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reverse its decision to include non-invasive ventilators in competitive bidding (CB). This issue was a top priority for those attending the 2019 ALS Advocacy Conference. **Hill visits made by advocates, as well as emails from across the country, made major difference in securing Congressional support.** You can view the Senate letter [here](#) and the House letter [here](#) to find out if your member of Congress signed.

Noninvasive ventilators require clinical support as well as frequent and substantial servicing. They should not be subject a CB process where the lowest bidder determines reimbursement. If CMS’s decision is not reversed, access to noninvasive ventilators by people living with ALS would be harmed with devastating results – more emergency room visits and hospital stays. In addition, beneficiaries unable to receive the necessary care in their homes, could be forced into institutional setting – worsening their quality of life and increasing the cost to taxpayers.