

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2022

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

We write to follow up on previous communications concerning the Request for Reconsideration of the National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Mobility Assistive Equipment and the currently pending National Coverage Analysis (NCA) for Power Seat Elevation Systems in Complex Rehabilitation Technology (CRT) wheelchairs. We thank you for opening the NCA for power seat elevation systems and look forward to CMS expanding access to these important systems. Power seat elevation systems and power standing systems used in these wheelchairs provide significant medical and functional benefits to many individuals with severe mobility impairments. Advancing Medicare coverage for these systems will help ensure that Medicare beneficiaries with disabilities like paralysis, muscular dystrophy, ALS, spina bifida, and other mobility disabilities can equitably access these benefits.

As you know, a group of patients, providers, researchers, and other subject matter experts submitted the aforementioned Request for Reconsideration in September 2020, seeking Medicare coverage of both power seat elevation and power standing systems. In August 2022, nearly two years after the initial request was submitted, CMS opened an NCA for power seat elevation systems. We greatly appreciate that CMS has taken this step, as it is an important opportunity for the agency to gather additional information that will inform its eventual coverage decision. However, we are concerned that CMS unexpectedly and without explanation bifurcated the initial request and did not open the related review of power standing systems or provide a timeline for doing so. Therefore, we request that:

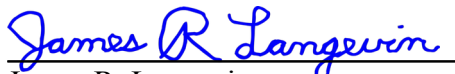
- 1) CMS move expeditiously to advance Medicare coverage for power seat elevation systems, consistent with the existing body of clinical evidence and within all applicable rules and regulations; and
- 2) CMS promptly move forward with opening an NCA for power standing systems.

Power seat elevation and power standing systems improve the health and independent function of mobility-impaired individuals and allow them to perform or increase their participation in mobility-related activities of daily living (MRADLs) in the home. Seat elevation systems allow users to raise and lower themselves in the seated position through an electromechanical lift system embedded into their CRT wheelchairs. These systems assist with safer transfers from wheelchairs to other surfaces such as beds, chairs, and toilets; reduce upper extremity injury due to prolonged wheelchair use; and reduce neck pain by providing a more level line-of-sight with other individuals. Standing systems allow users to transition from seated to standing positions without the need to leave their wheelchairs, allowing independent performance of MRADLs and a host of medical benefits derived from bearing weight on an individual's body frame. These medical benefits include improved joint mobility and muscle tone; increased strength and bone density; enhanced cardiovascular and respiratory functions; and reductions in falls, neck and spine injuries, skin breakdowns, spasticity, and muscle contractures.


Coverage of these technologies will bring significant benefits to Medicare beneficiaries with mobility impairments, making a timely review and decision process that much more important. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to move forward expeditiously with your review of public comments and the full body of clinical evidence regarding coverage of power seat elevation systems, and to promptly open the NCA and public comment period regarding coverage of power standing systems.


Thank you for your ongoing work on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and all individuals with disabilities.

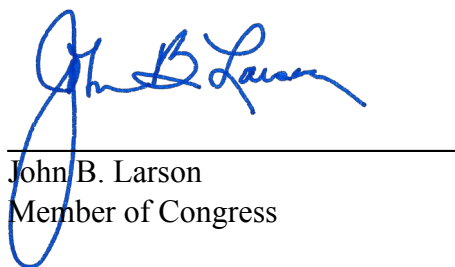
Sincerely,


  
James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress


  
Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress


  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

  
John Rose  
Member of Congress

  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

  
Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

  
Cori Bush  
Member of Congress

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



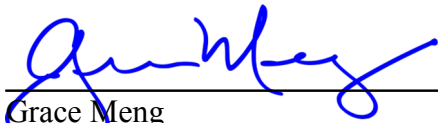
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



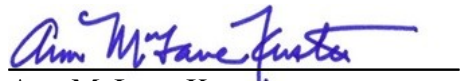
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Marie Newman  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



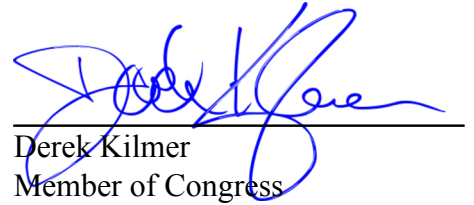
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress



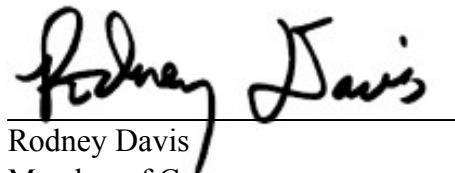
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



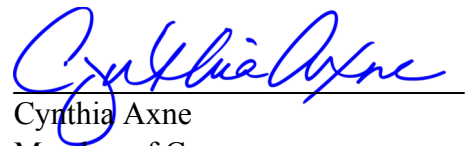
Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



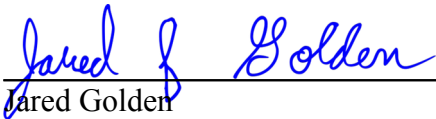
Cynthia Axne  
Member of Congress

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Al Lawson  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dean Phillips", written over a horizontal line.

Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jared Golden", written over a horizontal line.

Jared Golden  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chris Pappas", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Glenn Thompson", written over a horizontal line.

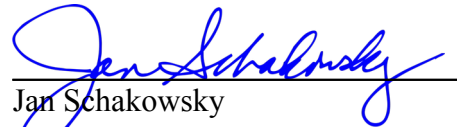
Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress

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David Kustoff  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Matt Cartwright", written over a horizontal line.

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jan Schakowsky", written over a horizontal line.

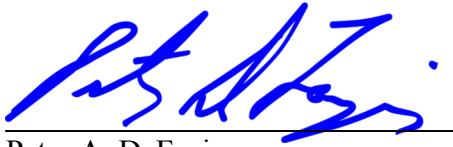
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mike Kelly", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chellie R", written over a horizontal line.

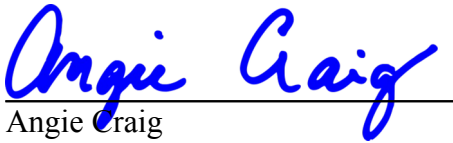
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



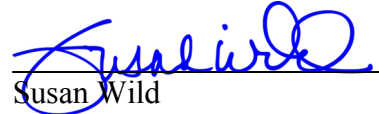
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



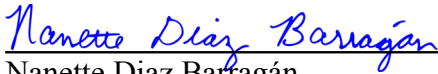
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Daniel Meuser  
Member of Congress



Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



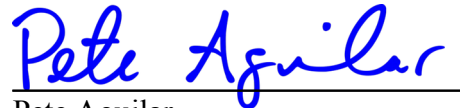
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



Fred Keller  
Member of Congress




Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Susie Lee  
Member of Congress




Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress




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Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress




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Josh Harder  
Member of Congress



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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress




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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



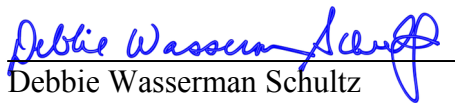
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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



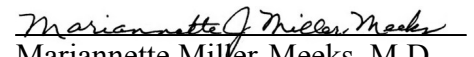
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



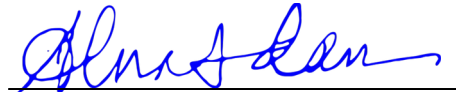
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Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress

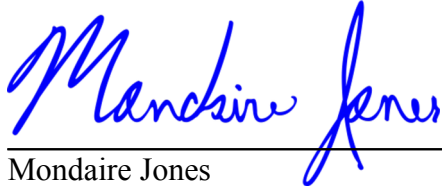




Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress



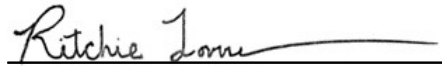
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



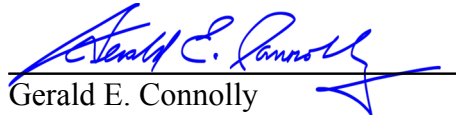
Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



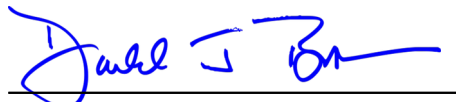
Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



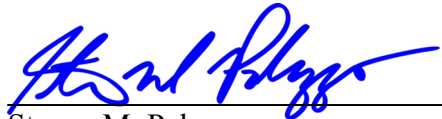
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



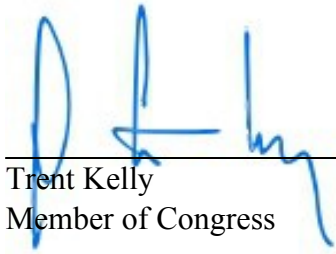
Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress