

Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer,

Thank you for your work on the Durable Medical Equipment Bill. I am writing to express my support. I have been a C 4-5 Quadriplegic (paralyzed from the chest down) for over 35 years, and have survived on Medicare / Medicaid. As much as I am grateful for these programs (I may not be here without them) I do get frustrated with some of their rules.

I depend on a motorized wheelchair, a hospital-type bed, and a rolling shower / commode chair for my daily living. Over the years there have been a number of occasions when Medicare / Medicaid has denied the purchase of a replacement for one of these needed appliances - on the grounds that my old piece of equipment was not old enough - though it was rusted-out and dangerous for daily use. The frustrating part was that the local Durable Medical Equipment supplier would regularly discard used (but like-new) wheelchairs or shower chairs because Medicare / Medicaid would not pay for them - being used. The supplier could not afford to just give these perfectly good pieces of equipment away for free - they of course wanted to be paid. So they scrapped them and I went without and did the best I could.

This Durable Medical Equipment Bill - if enacted - will not only help people get the equipment they need for their daily lives, it will also save money and keep good, usable medical equipment from going to the scrapyards.

Thanks again for your work on this Bill,

Roger E. Kerns
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