

January 29, 2014

Dear Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer,

We write to you to offer my full support for the State of Oregon House Bill 4108, which seeks to develop a pilot program for safe and reliable redistribution of gently used durable medical equipment (DME) in the Portland Metro Area and Marion/Polk counties. Passage of this Bill is urgently needed, especially in this time of economic recession, environmental crisis, and health care policy reform. Furthermore, the pilot program developed by this Bill, can help pave the way for similar programs in other states and counties across the country. We, as residents of Honolulu City and County in the State of Hawai'i, plead for the implementation of this program with the hope that, one day, we can enact such legislation in our own community.

Last year, we had the honor of caring for our grandmother in a home hospice program. As we prepared our home to accommodate her, we realized how much equipment was needed, and also realized how much waste was created in order to provide all new materials to each patient. At one point, due to transitions in our grandmother's hospice status, we were forced to get two separate sets of equipment, both new, in a matter of two days. Then, after her eventual passing, we were left with the equipment and were told the hospital was not able to take it back. It is unfortunate that, while many people are in need of functional DME, we were unable to find an avenue to ensure the trustworthy repurposing of these items. Moreover, we were left with the concern that for the millions of other individuals and families to use and receive new medical equipment each year, that many of them may simply discard them after only a few days or weeks of use.

As the health care system is in the process of expanding, and covering millions of additional Americans, we need a system that can facilitate the efficient exchange of DME between individuals and families in a dependable manner. As the financial gap between wealthy Americans and those in poverty widens, we need a system that can support the financially prudent system for redistributing DME without putting further strain on those of us who are already struggling. As the conditions of our air, water, and land worsen due to expanded development and consumption, we need a system for utilizing DME that lessens the burden on our environment.

It is with great conviction and a strong sense of urgency that we seek the passage of House Bill 4108. Please allow Oregon to be a leader and an example for the rest of the country on this matter.

Sincerely,



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