

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2013

REDUCE FRAUD AND ABUSE IN MEDICARE WHILE IMPROVING BENFICIARY CARE

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in cosponsoring H.R. 3112, the Medicare Orthotics and Prosthetics Improvement Act of 2013, which will strengthen Medicare benefits for orthotics (orthopedic braces) and prosthetics (artificial limbs) by reducing fraud and abuse, improving health care quality and reducing Medicare spending.

The orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) market is currently prone to fraud and abuse, at times substandard O&P products and services are furnished to Medicare beneficiaries and other patients. Despite Congressional mandates, not enough has been done to ensure that only legitimate practitioners are providing these items and services.

The Medicare Orthotics and Prosthetics Improvement Act of 2013 consists of three reforms aimed at addressing these issues. First, the legislation would prohibit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) from making any payment for orthotics and prosthetics to a provider who is not appropriately licensed in a state requiring licensure. Second, the bill will require practitioners in states without licensure requirements to be accredited, applying identical standards that are already in effect for Department of Veterans Affairs. Finally, the bill will assure patients the highest quality care by linking eligibility for Medicare payment to the qualifications of the provider and the complexity of the patient's needs and the device provided.

This combination of much needed reforms will keep fraudulent providers out of the O&P arena, so that only legitimate practitioners will be paid for serving Medicare beneficiaries. By linking Medicare payment to the qualifications of the provider and the complexity of the patient's needs and the device, these reforms will ensure that beneficiaries receive high quality care, so they do not have to receive duplicative items and services. Keeping fraudulent providers out of the Medicare program will ensure that high quality care is provided the first time, and in turn beneficiaries and CMS will save money.

For these many reasons we respectfully request that you join our efforts and become a cosponsor of the Medicare Orthotics and Prosthetics Improvement Act of 2013. For more information or to become a cosponsor please contact matthew.brennan@mail.house.gov (Rep. Thompson-PA) or timothy.daly@mail.house.gov (Rep. Thompson-CA).

Sincerely,



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress