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APPROPRIATIONS

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RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT,
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 18, 2010

Donald Berwick, M.D.
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

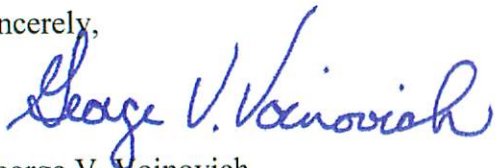
Dear Administrator Berwick:

Over the past several years, I have expressed my personal concerns about competitive bidding in the Medicare durable medical equipment (DME) program and its potential negative impact Medicare beneficiaries. In fact, after receiving many examples of serious problems the bid program would cause, particularly restricting beneficiaries' access to quality local providers in rural areas, I worked with my colleagues to delay the program in 2008 and require reforms.

While I understand the program has been modified, it appears I am not the only one with remaining concerns about the current program. I want to bring to your attention the attached letter signed by 166 experts in auctions and competitive bidding that express similar concerns and provide additional evidence that the new program could lead to lower quality medical services for my constituents and all Medicare beneficiaries.

I urge you to give these comments careful consideration and ask that you work to ensure that any competitive bidding program is designed to achieve the desired cost and quality.

Sincerely,



George V. Voinovich
United States Senate

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