

December 11, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the undersigned patient, healthcare professional and industry organizations, we urge you to include the bipartisan Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act (H.R. 2902/S.1406) in an end-of-year legislative package. This legislation, sponsored by Representatives David Valadao (R-CA), Gabe Evans (R-CO), Adrian Smith (R-NE) and Julia Brownley (D-CA) in the House and by Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Mark Warner (D-VA) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) in the Senate, will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries who require supplemental oxygen have appropriate access to this essential treatment. More than 1.5 million Americans face serious health risks because they do not currently have access to the appropriate supplemental oxygen equipment and services. Further delay will result in more patients losing access to medically necessary oxygen and related services.

The SOAR Act addresses long-standing barriers in several critical ways. First, it would lock in the savings for most oxygen modalities by removing them from the competitive bidding reimbursement program (CBP). Second, it would create a new reimbursement system for liquid oxygen given the well-documented access problems individuals prescribed this modality continue to experience because of the deep payment cuts resulting from the CBP. Third, it would recognize the critical medical need for respiratory therapy services by establishing an adjustment when these services are provided to ensure that individuals who use supplemental oxygen have the necessary training on using their oxygen. Finally, it would protect against fraud and abuse by mandating standardized documentation requirements that rely on an electronic “template” rather than prescriber medical records and establishing an oxygen users’ bill of rights.

While CMS has engaged in rulemaking for the CBP, the final rule does not address any of the issues the SOAR Act seeks to resolve. Congressional action remains the most prudent path to restoring reliable access to liquid oxygen and ensuring patients receive the appropriate modality of supplemental oxygen they need to breathe and live independent and full lives.

The SOAR Act would bring significant health and well-being benefits to the 1.5 million individuals in the U.S. living with COPD, heart disease, pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary fibrosis and other advanced respiratory diseases, and people awaiting lung transplants, who rely on supplemental oxygen. Oxygen therapy can decrease mortality, reduce shortness of breath and increase exercise capacity. We urge you to include the SOAR Act in an end-of-year health package, as these patients cannot wait. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM)
American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation
American Association of Respiratory Care
American College of Chest Physicians
American Lung Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Thoracic Society
ARDS Alliance, Inc.
Children's Interstitial and Diffuse Lung Disease (chILD) Foundation
COPD Foundation
Council for Quality Respiratory Care
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Dorney-Koppel Foundation
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network
National Scleroderma Foundation
NTM Info & Research, Inc.
Patients Rising
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
Pulmonary Fibrosis Warriors
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Pulmonary Wellness Foundation
Respiratory Health Association
Running On Air
TSC Alliance
Wescoe Foundation for Pulmonary Fibrosis