



July 30, 2021

The Honorable Richard Burr
U.S. Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet
U.S. Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: **Support for S. 2363, the *Better Wound Care at Home Act***

Dear Senator Burr and Senator Bennet:

The undersigned members of the Independence Through Enhancement of Medicare and Medicaid (ITEM) Coalition Steering Committee write to express our support for S. 2363, the *Better Wound Care at Home Act*. We applaud your leadership in addressing the challenges created during the implementation of the Medicare home health benefit for disposable negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT).

The ITEM Coalition is a national consumer- and clinician-led coalition advocating for access to and coverage of assistive devices, technologies, and related services for persons with injuries, illnesses, disabilities, and chronic conditions of all ages. Our members represent individuals with a wide range of disabling conditions, as well as the providers who serve them, including such conditions as multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, paralysis, limb loss, cerebral palsy, hearing, speech and visual impairments, vision loss, spina bifida, myositis, and other life-altering conditions.

We have expressed our concerns to the Medicare program before about the complex and burdensome billing requirements associated with disposable NPWT, and the resulting decrease in patient access to this important treatment. It is now clear that legislative action is required to ensure that beneficiaries are able to access this treatment as was intended by Congress. Your legislation would implement the reforms necessary to unlock the potential of this benefit.

Should this legislation advance, it would mark a positive step forward in expanding treatment options for patients, especially those with mobility impairments who use wheelchairs for a significant portion of their day and are prone to related wounds and other medical conditions, such as pressure ulcers. We look forward to working with your offices and your colleagues in Congress to help ensure that this legislation is enacted and that beneficiaries are able to appropriately access the wound care to which they are entitled in their own homes.

Thank you again for your efforts on this important issue. If you have any questions, or if the ITEM Coalition can further support your work to improve the Medicare home health benefit, please contact the ITEM Coalition coordinators at Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com and Joseph.Nahra@PowersLaw.com, or by calling 202-466-6550.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Members of the ITEM Coalition Steering Committee

ALS Association
Amputee Coalition
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Spina Bifida Association
United Spinal Association