

GAMES Members Converge on Washington!

Earlier this week, a delegation of GAMES members joined the over 200 Home Medical Equipment Suppliers attending AAHomecare's Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. The conference featured numerous "Washington Insider" speakers, elected officials, tips on lobbying, and great networking events. All of this culminated with Wednesday's march to the Hill! GAMES members met with all 13 representatives and both senators from Georgia. We asked these elected officials to help us and our patients put an end to Medicare (suicide) Bidding and support HR3790. We also asked them to protect Home Oxygen patients by signing on to HR2373, the bill to end the Oxygen Cap and restore the benefit through the period of medical need. Emboldened by the support of additional GAMES members at home, we also requested that the first month purchase option for power mobility be preserved!

[CLICK HERE](#) to download copies of the issue papers we used.

Following are some very brief notes of our experiences. GAMES members should follow-up with a thank you if their member of Congress signed onto one of our bills this week!

Senators:

Johnny Isakson & Saxby Chambliss

The Georgia delegation met with Richard Gerakitis from Chambliss' office and Tyler Thompson from Isakson's office. We asked for them to author a Senate Companion bill to HR3790. Neither Senator is on the right committee for this, but both would consider co-signer, letter, or other type of support.

Representatives:

Kingston, Jack, Georgia 1st

The Georgia delegation met with Meg Gilley. Meg said she 'liked what she was seeing.' She has long contended stopping the program without a pay-for was out of the question. She will talk to the Congressman and Robert Steedley will follow-up with her next week. It is the first time we have met with her and had such a positive response.

Bishop Jr., Sanford D., Georgia, 2nd

Eight members of the Georgia Delegation met with Congressman Bishop and Jonathan Halpern. The purpose was to thank him for his support on both bills. He understands and expressed his thanks for the work we do on behalf of home health patients.

Westmoreland, Lynn A., Georgia, 3rd

John Rhodes, Sergio Silva, Susan Ellington, Todd Tyson, and Linda Dozier attended this meeting with Lindsay Austin. Lindsay understood the issue and was very supportive. We later received word that Congressman Westmoreland agreed to

sign onto HR3790. Todd asked if they would reach out to Kingston's office.

Johnson, Henry C. "Hank" Jr., Georgia, 4th

The Georgia delegation met with Scott Goldstein. We thanked him for supporting us and asked if they would be willing to take the lead to try and add HR3790 to the health care reform bill if neither Lewis or anyone else would take the lead on it. Congressman Johnson is not on the best committee to do this, but may consider anyhow. We asked how we might help the Congressman. GAMES may plan a small event in the district.

Lewis, John, Georgia, 5th

Andy Simmons Sr, Andrew Simmons Jr, and Bill Cheek met with Michaelleen Crowell. They were able to confirm the Congressman is on HR3790. They briefly discussed an initiative titled "2010 - year of the lung". Andy Simmons and Todd Tyson will follow-up on this initiative and how GAMES can be involved.

Price, Tom, Georgia, 6th

The Georgia delegation met with Congressman Price and Emily Murray. The congressman agreed to sign onto HR3790. We discussed how to best move HOPP through the legislative process. He may circulate a Dear Colleague (DC) letter.

Linder, John, Georgia, 7th

Scott Lloyd, Kevin Mulcrone, Bill Cheek, Phil Stone, and Todd Tyson met with Janet Rossi. They expressed the importance and urgency of HR3790 and Janet agreed to further discuss with Emily Murray/Robert Horne (Price / Gingrey offices) and take up the cause again with Linder directly. We assured her of the recent strong bipartisan support including Gingrey and Deal. GAMES members should continue to discuss issues with her, however, Janet did not seem hopeful about changing the Congressman's opinion.

Marshall, Jim, Georgia, 8th

The Georgia delegation met with Tim Nelson. Tim explained Congressman Marshall was disinclined to co-sponsor for political reasons, although he would likely vote for the legislation should it reach the floor. His issue is that he does not want to co-sponsor any legislation that would be perceived as "sponsoring legislation that would reduce Medicare benefits to seniors." The concern is that constituents may think he voted to cut their Medicare if he is perceived to have cut Medicare, i.e., stopped CB.

He has historically been an ally of the industry and both Tim Nelson and Congressman Marshall have a very good grasp of the issues.

Our group also explained to him the costs associated with 120K unemployed individuals. Tim Nelson seemed unable to speak on the Congressman's behalf. We need to speak with the Congressman directly. Phil Stone will contact other GAMES members in district 8 to schedule a meeting in the district.

Deal, Nathan, Georgia 9th

John Rhodes and others met with Blake Fulenwider. The congressman may still sign onto HR2373, but is in his last week in office.

Broun, Paul C., Georgia 10th

Scott Lloyd, Todd Tyson, John Rhodes, Susan Ellington & Linda Dozier met with Joseph Murray. We expressed our gratitude for their leadership on our issues and he assured us he would continue to support us. Joseph is relatively new so we were able to get him more up to speed on our issues.

Gingrey, Phil, Georgia 11th

The Georgia delegation met with Congressman Gingrey and Robert Horne. This was a pleasant discussion where the Congressman said he signed onto HR3790 because he believed CMS had not fixed the most important pitfalls of the bidding program. The Congressman shared a couple of jokes and personal stories. He thanked us for what we do and we thanked him for serving. We discussed HR2373 and he agreed to reconsider this legislation also.

Barrow, John, Georgia, 12th

Scott Lloyd met with Thomas, Hill. Scott offered thanks to the Congressman for supporting both HR3790 and HR2373. They further discussed Barrow authoring a DC letter on first-month purchase option (FMPO). Hill observed the political challenges maintaining the FMPO as eliminating it is a good fraud prevention tool. He suggested creating a combined bill like HR4222 and including the preservation of the FMPO to make it politically more acceptable.

Scott, David, Georgia, 13th

The Georgia delegation met with Lauren Lattany. Lauren was new to the position and admitted she had not had time to thoroughly review our issues. After our discussion, she promised to discuss HR3790 with Congressman Scott. We later received work that the Congressman signed on.

Georgia Congressional Scorecard 3/4/2010

Member	Supports HR 3790 (Meek Bill to end CB)	Supports HR 2373 (Price bill to end O2 cap)
Sen. Johnny Isakson* 202-224-3643		
Sen. Saxby Chambliss* 202-224-3521		
Jack Kingston (1) 202-225-5831		
Sanford Bishop (2) 202-225-3631	y	y
Lynn Westmoreland (3) 202-225-5901	y	
Rep. Hank Johnson (4) 202-225-1605	y	y
Rep. John Lewis (5) 202-225-3801	y	y
Rep. Tom Price (6)	y	y

202-225-4501		
Rep. John Linder (7) 202-225-4272		
Rep. Jim Marshall (8) 202-225-6531		y
Rep. Nathan Deal (9) 202-225-5211	y	
Rep. Paul Broun (10) 202- 225-4101	y	y
Rep. Phil Gingery (11) 202-225-2931	y	
Rep. John Barrow (12) 202-225-2823	y	y
Rep. David Scott (13) 202-225-2939	y	y

*There is no Sentate Companion bill at this time

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