



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Beth Bowen, executive director NCAMES, beth@ncames.org, 919-387-1221

Congresswoman Renee Ellmers Visits NCAMES Members

(Dunn, NC) – Congresswoman Renee Ellmers (R-NC) attended a meeting with North Carolina medical equipment suppliers who are members of NCAMES (North Carolina Association for Medical Equipment Services) on Tuesday October 7 at Family Medical Supply headquarters in Dunn, NC. Representatives from Brightree, MiraVISTA, MedGroup and VGM also joined the group.

The discussion at the meeting centered around the effects of Medicare policies like competitive bidding and the audit and appeals on medical equipment suppliers and Medicare beneficiaries in North Carolina and around the country. Ellmers said, “the longer we can keep patients in the home and healthy, the better for saving Medicare dollars and the better for the patients overall well-being.”

With a background in health care and as a Registered Nurse, Ellmers has taken health care issues head on. David Chandler, president of NCAMES traveled in from Wilmington to visit with Congresswoman Ellmers to thank her for the work she has done and pledge the support of NCAMES to assist in garnering support for H.R. 5083. Joey Tart, Family Medical Supply, told the group of about 75 strong that this is the first time that our industry has had a champion like Ellmers who understands and has actually introduced a bill to assist. Beth Bowen, executive director of NCAMES added, “NCAMES will do everything we can to gain sponsorships for this critical piece of legislation in the short weeks ahead.”

While the idea of competitively bid system for medical equipment may sound like a reasonable practice, there are many flaws within that system. The program is expected to expand to rural areas in 2016, reducing reimbursement rates to the already hard hit rural communities.

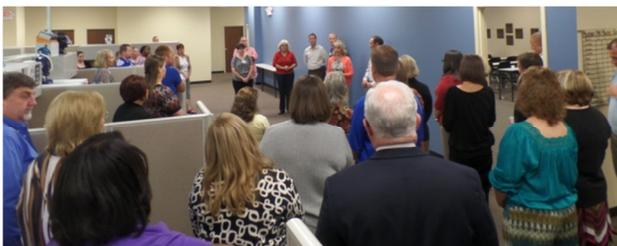
For many years medical equipment providers have fought excessive unreasonable denials of payment by CMS via the contractors they have hired to analyze claims. The process ties up cash flow for medical equipment providers, making it difficult to stay in business as claims are being reviewed.

Meanwhile senior citizens and people with disabilities, whose lives rely on wheelchairs, oxygen, and other equipment for their independence, are not receiving the care they need.

ABOUT NCAMES

With about 200 member companies, the North Carolina Association for Medical Equipment Services (NCAMES) is the statewide leader in preserving access to safe, affordable, and therapeutic home medical equipment. We provide advocacy & education to HME providers statewide dedicated to helping North Carolina's growing senior population and patients of all ages gain more mobility and experience a high quality of life in the comfort and privacy of their own homes. Instrumental in passing the nation's first HME licensure law which has been working to ensure quality home health care since 1995, NCAMES continues to advocate for seniors and patients in need. For more information, visit www.ncames.org or call (919) 387-1221.

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Several NCAMES Members and Family employees with Ellmers



Rep. Ellmers with NCAMES Leadership