



CALL YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Take a few minutes during our Virtual Lobby Campaign, March 27 through April 10, 2019 to call your Congressional leaders to let them know how important it is to you for them to support respiratory therapists and protect patient access to liquid oxygen.

Go to the [AARC TAKE ACTION PAGE](#) and click on the box that describes you best, e.g., RT, RT student, patient, physician, or supporter/friends. Click on the phone icon and complete the information and it will connect to your Congressional leaders.



I am a respiratory therapist (or student, or pulmonary patient, etc.) and I'm from (your town and state).

I'd like to ask Representative _____ to co-sponsor the Better Respiration through Expanding Access to Tele-Health Act (the BREATHE Act) when introduced.

[**Note:** If calling a Senator ask for introduction of companion legislation.]

- This 3-year telehealth pilot includes respiratory therapists (RTs) as telehealth practitioners to furnish chronic disease management services to Medicare beneficiaries with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).
- The purpose is to assist Medicare in gathering data that can demonstrate the expertise RTs bring to the health care system and their patients through improved outcomes and lower costs.

I'd also like Representative/Senator _____ to sign-on to a letter when available directing CMS to monitor patient access to liquid oxygen during the suspension of the competitive bidding program, especially during the first six months, and report to Congress on its findings.

- Since Medicare changed the way it pays for oxygen through a competitive bidding process, data show that patient access to liquid oxygen has been significantly compromised.
- Individuals with pulmonary fibrosis, advanced-stage COPD and those awaiting lung transplants need high flow liters of oxygen which can only be provided in liquid form. Without it they are homebound and their quality of life is diminished.

I appreciate your consideration of this request to improve access to skilled respiratory therapists and to protect patient access to liquid oxygen.