

To the Editor:

On October 21, 2009, the Federal government implemented a restrictive Medicare bidding process for home medical equipment providers in nine cities across the U.S., including Charlotte. Cities and towns throughout the rest of North Carolina, including [INSERT CITY HERE], will be affected soon as this program is rolled-out nationwide.

This flawed program, implemented by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Washington, D.C., denies patient access as it keeps up to 90 percent of local businesses like mine from providing services to thousands of our customers. North Carolina's seniors and patients of all ages demand unfettered access to home health care equipment, which is why I am supporting new legislation, H.R. 3790, to allow qualified, licensed home medical providers in North Carolina to continue to service our customers.

Over half of our congressional delegation in North Carolina has signed-on to this bi-partisan bill, which deserves all our support in order to save local businesses like mine and enable patients in need to continue to receive quality home medical equipment and services from people they trust.