# Draft letter to your Senator – Thanks for your support!

The following draft copy is designed for you cut and paste into your own word processing or email software for editing.

You may choose to write to either one or both of your State’s two Senators, and/or to your local Congressperson. We suggest a focus on Senators because this will maximize the influence that we can bring to bear on individual legislators.

## Finding Addresses

The following links provide instructions for where to find details of Senators and Congresspersons in the House of Representatives.

[U.S. Senators (web sites and mailing addresses)](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

[Write Your U.S. Representative](https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml) (A service of the House that will assist you by identifying your Congressperson in the U.S. House of Representatives and provide contact information).

## Addressing your local Congressperson or Senator

According to http://usgovinfo.about.com/od/uscongress/a/letterscongress.htm the correct forms of address are as follows (please note that the above addresses should be used in email messages, as well as those sent through the US Postal Service):

#### To Your Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
(Room #) (Name) Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

#### To Your Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
(Room #) (Name) House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

## Draft letter content

[Insert date here]

[Insert Congressperson or Senator name and address here]

I am [insert your name here] of [inset your residential address].

I am writing to you in my professional capacity as a [insert your qualification here] working in [insert your role and place of employment here] to highlight shortcomings in current Medicare funding guidelines pertaining to powered wheelchair provision for citizens with severely limited mobility.

Currently, prescribing therapists are required to submit a letter of medical necessity based on their patient’s needs for mobility in their home. This typically results in limited funding for powered wheelchairs that are unsuited for use in everyday outdoor environments, whether for work or recreation, or at local community events.

An increasing weight of medical evidence suggests that restricted capacity for indoor-outdoor mobility is sometimes associated with occupational deprivation. This is the condition of being prevented or precluded from participation and engagement in occupations of necessity, obligation and choice. Occupational deprivation has serious consequences – it reduces people’s capacities and significantly diminishes health, wellbeing, and quality of life. It can lead to poorer mental and physical health outcomes, which often have negative consequences for the caregivers and families of affected people. A review of relevant literature and illustrative case study is available at <http://www.iss.pitt.edu/ISS2017/ISS2017Doc/ISS2017Handouts/PS10/Barnett%20ISS17%20Presentation%20Slides%204pp.pdf>

Efforts are currently underway to advocate for amendment of the relevant section of Medicare legislation. I am writing alongside my fellow practitioners to ask that you support any such amendment or, ideally, participate in the process aimed at introducing the required amendment.

Specifically, we are seeking support for Medicare funding guidelines that will recognise the need for assistive technology to enable participation and engagement in occupations of necessity, obligation, and choice as a legitimate, additional rationale alongside mobility in the home.

With my kind regards,

[your name]