



**North Carolina Association for Medical Equipment Services
PRESS RELEASE**

**NCAMES WORKS WITH CONGRESSMAN SHULER TO HOLD
SMALL BUSINESS HEARING ON FEBRUARY 11TH**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CARY, NC – FEBRUARY 5, 2009. The North Carolina Association for Medical Equipment Services has been successful in working with Congressman Heath Shuler (D-NC-11) to plan a hearing with the Small Business Committee. Mr. Shuler serves as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship and was honored as the 2008 NCAMES Legislator of the Year Award for his work as a champion of the durable medical equipment (DME) industry.

This hearing will focus on the effects that the DME National Competitive Bidding Program has had on small businesses across the country. It will take place at 10:00am on Wednesday, February 11th during the “Homecare on Capitol Hill Day,” hosted by the American Association for Homecare and will be held in 2360 Rayburn House Office Building.

NCAMES is proud to announce that Bill Griffin, owner of Griffin Home Health Care in Charlotte, N.C. will testify at the Feb. 11 hearing. Griffin was involved in Round One of National Competitive Bidding and he shared that this program would, “be devastating to small business but greater will be the far reaching negative impact on patient-care, services to patrons, families, and caregivers in the community”.

Additional witnesses from other Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), along with those from related industries and CMS staff will also be called as witnesses to testify. All witnesses will testify before the members of the Small Business Committee and will then answer questions relating to their testimony or about the topic at hand.

Because the timing of the hearing coincides with a homecare lobbying day and many small businesses have been adversely affected by National Competitive Bidding, NCAMES expects a large crowd to gather during this hearing.

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NCAMES represents nearly 275 home medical equipment (HME) providers from across the state whose businesses are committed to seeing that members have the educational tools to provide safe, affordable, comfortable, and therapeutic home medical equipment. It is through HME providers' efforts that patients may recuperate from illness in the comfort and privacy of their own homes at much lower costs than institutional care. NCAMES was instrumental in passing the nation's first HME Licensure law which took effect in 1995.

