

SOAR Act (Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform)

August 27, 2024



Adopted from August 27, 2024 SOAR
Coalition Presentation

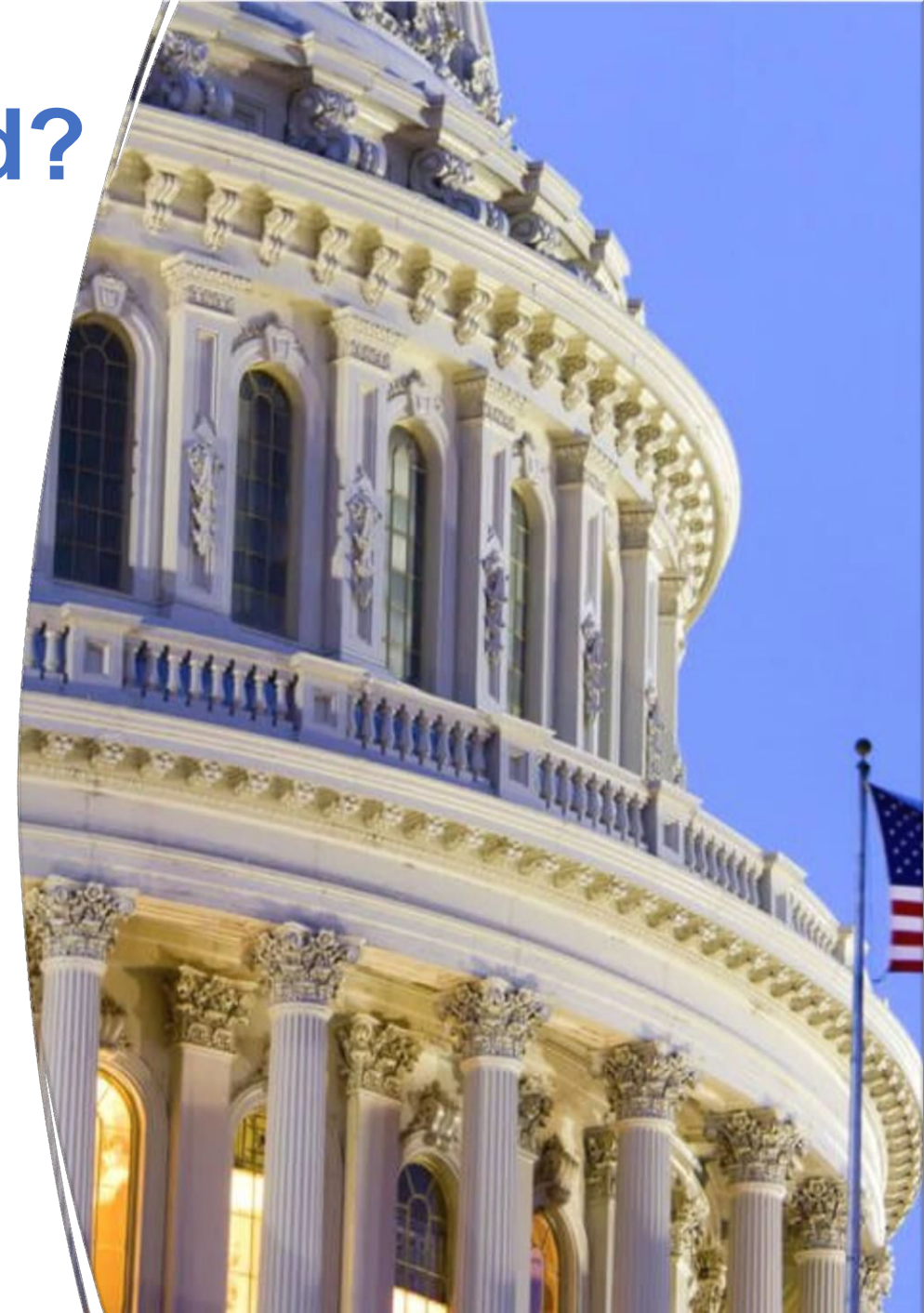


Why is Supplemental Oxygen So Important?

- Important treatment for patients with lung disease and heart disease
 - Advanced COPD
 - Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis
 - Pulmonary hypertension
 - Pulmonary fibrosis
 - Patients awaiting lung transplant
 - Other restrictive lung diseases including LAM, PCD and sarcoidosis
 - Congestive heart failure
- Research shows providing supplemental oxygen improves patient outcomes

How Did Access Get This Bad?

- In 2011 the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services implemented a competitive bid process for all DME, including oxygen.
- This resulted in oxygen vendors being underpaid for oxygen equipment and services. Liquid oxygen was particularly impacted as many vendors discontinued providing liquid oxygen.
- The lack of funding also led oxygen suppliers to stop providing RT services.



What Needs to be Fixed?

- People are stuck with heavy systems that limit or completely prevent them from leaving their house and being in the community.

This is not a portable system!



What Needs to be Fixed?

- Some may sacrifice appropriate oxygen flow – literally starving themselves of oxygen – so they can be outside for brief periods to complete simple tasks like buying groceries.



Low Flow



High Flow

Liquid Oxygen – What Is It?

Liquid oxygen is a lightweight, high flow modality of oxygen. It can allow people who need high-flow oxygen to leave their homes comfortably and safely



15in

10.5in

Photo courtesy of CAIRE, Inc.

Liquid Oxygen - Issues with Access

- Liquid oxygen users dropped by approximately **80%** in the first few years of competitive bidding.
- Physicians prescribe liquid oxygen less often because of difficulties with access. Newer physicians may not realize they can prescribe it, and most of the US does not have liquid oxygen available.
- When liquid oxygen *is* prescribed, patients have significant challenges in receiving it. Some have been removed involuntarily from liquid.



Access to Respiratory Therapists

- Respiratory therapists are trained to help patients use their oxygen appropriately and ensure that it is properly calibrated to their needs.
- As oxygen reimbursement has decreased, companies have stopped offering access to respiratory therapist services to patients who need supplemental oxygen.

The SOAR Act – S. 3821 & H.R. 7829

REMOVE OXYGEN AND OXYGEN RELATED EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, AND SERVICES FROM COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION PROGRAM TO IMPROVE PATIENT ACCESS TO SUPPLEMENTAL OXYGEN THERAPY.

Bipartisan Legislation

Senate – S. 3821

Senator Cassidy – R-LA

Senator Warner – D-VA

Senator Klobuchar – D-MN

House – H.R. 7829

Rep. Valadao – R-CA

Rep. Brownley – D-CA

Rep. Bucshon – R-IN

Rep. A. Smith – R-NE



Thank you, cosponsors!

- Zoe Lofgren, CA
- Jahana Hayes, CT
- Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC
- Bill Posey, FL
- Darren Soto, FL
- David Trone, MD
- Sen. Gary Peters, MI
- Rashida Tlaib, MI
- Dean Phillips, MN
- Alma Adams, NC
- Donald Davis, NC
- Deborah Ross, NC
- Michael Lawler, NY
- Cliff Bentz, OR
- Lori Chavez-DeRemer, OR
- Chrissy Houlahan, PA
- Sen. Marsha Blackburn, TN
- Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, WA

Four Pillars for Oxygen Reform

1. Ensure supplemental oxygen is patient centric: Create a patients' bill of rights to ensure care is focused on patient needs
2. Ensure access to liquid oxygen for patients for whom it is medically necessary
3. Provide reimbursement for respiratory therapy as part of the oxygen service
4. Establish standardized documentation requirements

Call your members of Congress to ask them to support the Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act!

1. Find your members of Congress (two U.S. Senators and one U.S. Representative) and their contact information here:
<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>
2. Are any of your members of Congress already cosponsors for the SOAR Act? Check the list below of members of Congress who are cosponsors of the SOAR Act as of August 27, 2024:
 - Rep. Julia Brownley, CA
 - Rep. Zoe Lofgren, CA
 - Rep. David Valadao, CA
 - Rep. Jahana Hayes, CT
 - Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC
 - Rep. Bill Posey, FL
 - Rep. Darren Soto, FL
 - Rep. Larry Bucshon, IN
 - Sen. Bill Cassidy, LA
 - Rep. David Trone, MD
 - Sen. Gary Peters, MI
 - Rep. Rashida Tlaib, MI
 - Sen. Amy Klobuchar, MN
 - Rep. Dean Phillips, MN
 - Rep. Alma Adams, NC
 - Rep. Donald Davis, NC
 - Rep. Deborah Ross, NC
 - Rep. Adrian Smith, NE
 - Rep. Michael Lawler, NY
 - Rep. Cliff Bentz, OR
 - Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer, OR
 - Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, PA
 - Sen. Marsha Blackburn, TN
 - Sen. Mark Warner, VA
 - Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, WA
3. Call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to each Senator and your Representative **OR** you can look up your two Senators' and one Representative's phone numbers at <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> and call them directly.

4a. If your member of Congress has **NOT** cosponsored the SOAR Act, ask them to cosponsor the SOAR Act with the talking points below.

"Ask to Cosponsor" Talking Points

- Hello! My name is [NAME] and I live in [THE TOWN/CITY IN WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE.]
- I am calling today to ask the [Senator/Representative] for [Response] the Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act, bipartisan legislation that will reform supplemental oxygen in Medicare.
- This legislation is important to me because [BRIEFLY SHARE YOUR OWN PERSONAL REASON FOR WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU.]
- I hope I can count on [Senator/Representative] to cosponsor this bipartisan legislation.
- Thank you.

4b. If any of your members of Congress have already cosponsored the SOAR Act, call them to **thank them** for cosponsoring the SOAR Act!

“Thank You for Cosponsoring” Talking Points

- My name is [NAME] and I live in [THE TOWN/CITY IN WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE.]
 - I am calling today to thank the [Senator/Representative] for cosponsoring the Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act.
 - This legislation is important to me because [BRIEFLY SHARE YOUR OWN PERSONAL REASON FOR WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU.]
 - Please let the [Senator/Representative] appreciate that they have cosponsored the SOAR Act.
 - Thank you.
5. Repeat step 4 for your other two members of Congress.
6. Complete the Call Report Form to report on the outcomes of the calls using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YBKD6CP>

**Thank you for joining us in advocating for better access to supplemental oxygen!
Please email advocacy@pulmonaryfibrosis.org or call 312-224-9802 with any questions.**

TIME TO MAKE YOUR CALLS!



Call Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 or you can look up your 2 Senators' and 1 Representative's phone numbers at <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> and call them directly