

To champion the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of chest diseases through education, communication, and research.

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January 08, 2026

U.S. House of Representatives
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health
2125 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: January 8, 2026 Hearing on “Legislative Proposals to Support Patient Access to Medicare Services”

Dear Chairman Griffith, Ranking Member DeGette, and Members of the Committee:

The American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) is pleased to see that H.R. 2902, the Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act, is included in today's Health Subcommittee hearing. The legislation would improve access to medically necessary supplemental oxygen for more than 1.5 million Medicare beneficiaries living with chronic conditions, including COPD.

Since oxygen was placed in Medicare's DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program, payment reductions have significantly limited patient access to appropriate oxygen equipment and eliminated coverage for respiratory therapist services, increasing the risk of avoidable emergency visits and hospitalizations. The SOAR Act would remove oxygen from competitive bidding, establish a more appropriate reimbursement structure, and ensure that those with COPD receive the training and support necessary to safely use oxygen therapy.

Representing over 17,000 medical professionals in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine, CHEST is the global leader in advancing best patient outcomes through innovative chest medicine education, clinical research, and team-based care. CHEST has been deeply involved in supporting the SOAR Act since the first introduction in 2024, contributing the clinical expertise that led to the standardized clinical data elements that would clearly indicate the information prescribers need to provide when ordering supplemental oxygen for their patients. The SOAR Act is critical to ensuring patients can access the oxygen treatment and services they need to live healthy and fuller lives.

Thank you for your time and for considering the SOAR Act.

Sincerely,

Robert Musacchio, PhD, EVP and CEO
American College of CHEST Physicians