



2937 SW 27th Avenue, Suite 106
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ACTION ALERT – HR 1708 and S 700 “Ending the Medicare Disability Waiting Period”

YOU can help make this legislation successful. H.R. 1708 and S 700 will phase out the 24-month waiting period for disabled individuals to become eligible for Medicare benefits, and eliminate the waiting period for individuals with life-threatening conditions.

Presently there are an estimated seven million Americans under the age of 65 that are subject to the 24 month Medicare waiting period. Although some of these cases are able to find some form of health care coverage, 600,000 are currently uninsured. By eliminating the Medicare waiting period, this legislation would provide individuals with disabilities that are uninsured, access to the quality health care that will enable them to remain active, productive members of society.

Join the Alpha-1 Association and Alpha-1 Foundation by taking action today; by voicing your support for the Act to your elected officials in Congress.

It is simple to take action:

Call your elected official in the House of Representatives and ask for him/her to cosponsor HR 1708. Call your Senators and ask them to cosponsor S 700. Make sure you tell him/her that:

- you are a constituent,
- this issue is vital to you personally or to your community,
- this issue is important to all Americans, and
- you expect your elected official to take a stand in support of this legislation.

Who is my representative? Visit www.house.gov and enter your zip code in the small box at the top and click “GO”. The next page will direct you to your representative.



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**SAMPLE LETTER – DO NOT PRINT ON
ASSOCIATION/FOUNDATION LETTERHEAD**

Dear (Representative/Senator),

I am writing to ask you to cosponsor H.R. 1708 or S 700, Ending the Medicare Disability Waiting Period.

H.R. 1708 and S 700 would phase the two year waiting period out of the next ten years thus giving these disabled Americans a fighting chance to once again become productive and useful members of society. For individuals with life threatening conditions this legislation eliminates the waiting period immediately.

I suffer from Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency, which is the leading identified genetic risk factor for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). The symptoms of this disease usually present themselves between the third and fifth decade, so many of us fall subject to this 24 month waiting period after being qualified for disability benefits - and it's quite hard to hold your breath for that long.

So please support H.R. 1708 or S 700 and let us breathe easier knowing that our voices are heard on Capitol Hill.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

Telephone Number