##

[INSERT DATE]

[INSERT NAME/ADDRESS]

Dear [INSERT NAME/TITLE]:

[INSERT RELEVANT PERSONAL INFORMATION – For example: My name is Jane Doe. I am an above-elbow amputee since 1996 when I lost my arm above the elbow in an industrial accident.] I am writing to ask you to support H.R. 5262, the Medicare Orthotics and Prosthetics Patient-Centered Care Act, a bill that will ensure that people like me with limb loss/difference have access to qualified prosthetists while also protecting Medicare from fraud and abuse.

Importantly, this bipartisan bill clarifies the important differences between the commoditized nature of durable medical equipment on the one hand, and the highly technical/clinical nature of prosthetic care on the other. Unlike DME, prostheses are custom-fabricated by certified/licensed clinicians. To become certified or licensed, prosthetists must obtain a Masters Degree and complete a comprehensive residency program. In other words, prosthetic care is profoundly different and more complex than DME. Recognizing this difference helps prevent inappropriate lumping together of the two that could adversely impact my access to time-sensitive, regularly-needed prosthetic care.

Equally important, H.R. 5262 would reduce the likelihood of waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare program by prohibiting the practice of “drop shipping” orthotic braces that require more than minimal self-adjustment unless the patient has received direct patient care from a trained, certified or licensed health care practitioner. (This same prohibition applies to prostheses in the bill.) Earlier this year, the Department of Justice’s well-publicized “Brace Yourself” campaign broke up a scam peddling unnecessary and unneeded braces to Medicare beneficiaries. Companies involved in this scheme bilked Medicare out of $1.7 billion. This bill would not only protect against such unscrupulous actors, but also ensure that Medicare beneficiaries only receive medically necessary orthoses while getting instruction on how to properly use the orthoses that they do receive.

H.R. 5262 will help your constituents living with limb loss/difference while protecting the Medicare program. I am asking you to support this legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions about this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

 Very truly yours,

 [INSERT NAME]