(NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE)

24 Beacon St

Room # (ADD ROOM NUMBER)

Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative (NAME):

My name is (insert name), and I am one of your constituents as well as a licensed and credentialed respiratory therapist (RT) here in Massachusetts. I am writing out of concern for the health and safety of our patients and request for your support in changing House Bill H.4067. This bill; named “An Act relative to home health and hospice aides,” if approved, would allow home health and hospice aides to administer medications through inhalation. Inhaled medications include those that are used to treat a wide range of cardiopulmonary diseases and symptoms. The medications could be anything from bronchodilators (which are used for asthma and COPD), to vasodilators (used to treat pulmonary hypertension), or even inhaled narcotics given to alleviate acute shortness of breath. The various delivery devices designed to deliver these medication have also necessarily increased in complexity as both the indications and type of medications have changed over time. This dynamic requires a high level of competence of the part of the administrator to ensure proper and safe delivery. Health aides lack the necessary educational background to properly assess and understand the physiologic effects of these medications.

If H.4067 is passed as written, the potential to expose patients to unnecessary risk and preventable harm is very real. I am asking that you propose an amendment to this bill that would remove the route of inhalation from the allowed medications to be delivered by both home health and hospice aides. Providing medication by inhalation is not as simple as telling the patient to take a deep breath, it encompasses an understanding of pharmacology, respiratory physiology, and respiratory mechanics; knowledge that comes with higher trained healthcare professions, such as respiratory therapists and nurses. In addition, home health and hospice aides are not provided the proper education in monitoring for any drug side effects, some whose presentation may be subtle yet still place the patient at risk for great harm; or even possess the skills to properly perform a pre- and post-therapy assessment to quantify the response of the delivered medication.

It is because of the spectrum of complexity related to inhaled drug administration, and the importance of proper medication delivery that I am asking for the amendment of this bill to remove inhaled medications from the allowed list. If you would like to discuss this in-person, I would be more than happy to meet with you and provide additional information if you desire. Thank you for your time and helping to keep the safety and welfare of our patients a priority.

Respectfully yours,

(Insert Name), (Insert Credentials)

(Insert home address, some require this to prove that you reside in their district)