

February 10, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

The undersigned state medical societies and national specialty organizations congratulate House and Senate negotiators on the introduction of H.R. 4015/ S. 2000, the *SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014*. Now, Congress is closer than it has ever been to enacting fiscally-prudent legislation that would repeal Medicare's fatally flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula. It is critically important to build on this work and maintain the momentum.

Congress has been debating the shortcomings of the SGR policy for more than a decade, and now a solution to this failed policy is finally at hand. It is time to take action, and to stop the cycle of short-term patches that merely address the immediate crisis posed by whatever cut is currently pending. Further reliance on this mechanism to preserve patient access to care is fiscally irresponsible and has impeded innovation in delivering health care services for far too long.

To date, Congress has spent \$153.7 billion over 12 years on SGR patches, far more than the cost of permanently reforming the Medicare physician payment system. And, because of the cumulative nature of the formula, the cost of these short-term remedies rises each year.

The legislation introduced last week is the product of more than a year of bipartisan, bicameral work to build a stronger Medicare program. Short-term remedies are no longer acceptable. Now is the time to pass a long-term solution to the fatally flawed SGR and establish a transition to a more stable Medicare physician payment policy to better serve America's senior citizens.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Disability Evaluating Physicians  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Home Care Medicine  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology

The Honorable Harry Reid  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
February 10, 2014

American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons  
American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Family physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Medical Directors Association – Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine  
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Cytopathology  
American Society of Dermatopathology  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Society of Retina Specialists  
American Thoracic Society

The Honorable Harry Reid  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
February 10, 2014

College of American Pathologists  
International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery  
Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association of Medical Examiners  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
The Endocrine Society  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Medical Association of the State of Alabama  
Alaska State Medical Association  
Arizona Medical Association  
Arkansas Medical Society  
California Medical Association  
Colorado Medical Society  
Medical Society of Delaware  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
Hawaii Medical Association  
Idaho Medical Association  
Illinois State Medical Society  
Indiana State Medical Association  
Iowa Medical Society  
Kansas Medical Society  
Kentucky Medical Association  
Louisiana State Medical Society  
Maine Medical Association  
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Michigan State Medical Society  
Minnesota Medical Association  
Mississippi State Medical Association  
Missouri State Medical Association  
Montana Medical Association  
Nebraska Medical Association  
Nevada State Medical Association  
New Hampshire Medical Society  
Medical Society of New Jersey  
New Mexico Medical Society

The Honorable Harry Reid  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
February 10, 2014

North Carolina Medical Society  
North Dakota Medical Association  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Oklahoma State Medical Association  
Oregon Medical Association  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Rhode Island Medical Society  
South Carolina Medical Association  
South Dakota State Medical Association  
Tennessee Medical Association  
Texas Medical Association  
Utah Medical Association  
Vermont Medical Society  
Medical Society of Virginia  
Washington State Medical Association  
West Virginia State Medical Association  
Wisconsin Medical Society  
Wyoming Medical Society

cc: U.S. Senate