

March 26, 2014

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Representative Pelosi:

On behalf of the undersigned physician organizations, we are writing to express our strong opposition to H.R. 4302, the "Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014," and we urge you to vote against the bill when it is considered on the floor.

Instead of reforming the Medicare physician payment system, Congress seems intent on imposing yet another round of arbitrary provider payment reductions to maintain a corrosive policy that essentially every Member of Congress says should be scrapped. Importantly, by selectively choosing cost savings proposals that were included in the bipartisan, bicameral policy framework set forth in H.R. 4015 and S. 2000, the bill being considered would undermine future passage of that framework and add to the instability that now impedes the development and adoption of health care delivery and payment innovations that can strengthen the Medicare program.

It appears that an unprecedented, bipartisan agreement on Medicare reform is on the verge of being cast aside because elected leaders are unwilling to make tough choices to strengthen programs serving 50 million Americans. We strongly urge Members to vote against this legislation and renew our call for all parties to engage in good faith, bipartisan efforts to enact the physician payment and delivery system reform policy contained in H.R. 4015/ S. 2000, the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act. The endless cycle of short-term remedies that serve to support a failed policy are no longer acceptable.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry

American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Phlebology  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Surgeons  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society  
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Surgical Association  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Dermatopathology  
American Society of General Surgeons  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
College of American Pathologists  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association of Medical Examiners  
North American Spine Society  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society of Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Alaska State Medical Association  
Arkansas Medical Society  
Connecticut State Medical Society

Medical Society of Delaware

Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
Medical Association of Georgia  
Hawaii Medical Association  
Idaho Medical Association  
Illinois State Medical Society  
Indiana State Medical Association  
Iowa Medical Society  
Kentucky Medical Association  
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  
Medical Society of the State of New York  
North Dakota Medical Association  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Oregon Medical Association  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Rhode Island Medical Society  
South Dakota State Medical Association  
Tennessee Medical Association  
Utah Medical Association  
Vermont Medical Society  
Medical Society of Virginia  
Washington State Medical Association  
Wisconsin Medical Society  
Wyoming Medical Society

cc: U.S. House of Representatives