



President
Barbara J. Easterling

Secretary-Treasurer
Ruben Burks

November 17, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The Alliance for Retired Americans, on behalf of its nearly four million members throughout the nation, supports the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act of 2009, H.R. 3961. We urge its prompt passage by the House of Representatives.

This legislation makes important, substantive, and positive changes in the health care needs of older Americans, coupled with the November 7 passage of the Affordable Health Care for American Act, H.R. 3962. The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act is important to our members because it will allow them to continue having access to and choice of physicians. Without passage of this legislation, current law will cut Medicare payments to physicians by more than 21 percent in 2010 and impose future cuts beyond 2010. The uncertainty in the Medicare payment system has caused anxiety among older Americans regarding whether physicians would treat Medicare patients. This legislation permanently replaces the current statutory formula and replaces it with a system that ensures physicians will receive fair compensation. The legislation comes at a time when the baby boom generation is beginning to reach the age of Medicare eligibility. It will create needed certainty for Medicare patients and physicians.

Passage of the Affordable Health Care for America Act is will directly benefit our members and more than forty million older Americans. If we can be of assistance, please contact Richard Fiesta, Director of Government and Political Affairs, at the Alliance. The Alliance for Retired Americans is committed to enacting legislation that improves the quality of life for retirees and all Americans.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Barbara J. Easterling in black ink.

Barbara J. Easterling
President

Handwritten signature of Ruben Burks in black ink.

Ruben Burks
Secretary-Treasurer

Handwritten signature of Edward F. Coyle in black ink.

Edward F. Coyle
Executive Director