

November 13, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The undersigned physician organizations are writing to urge the House to follow up on last week's health system reform vote with a determined effort to secure the future of the Medicare program.

Existing obligations to patients covered by Medicare and TRICARE also must be fulfilled in order to make comprehensive health system reform a reality. Swift passage of H.R. 3961, the "Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act," will replace the physician payment system that is widely acknowledged to be dysfunctional and that continually threatens access to care for our nation's elderly and disabled patients, as well as for our military families covered by TRICARE. It also will help provide physician practices with financial stability and predictability and enable them to invest in the infrastructure needed to build a health care system for the 21st century. Without Medicare physician payment reform, the goals of health system reform will remain out of reach.

Another short-term "patch" that serves only to increase the severity of future cuts and raise the costs of permanently repealing the sustainable growth rate (SGR) Medicare physician payment formula is not a fiscally responsible solution. For that reason, we are committed to working with you to achieve immediate passage of H.R. 3961. Medicine can no longer support the sort of short-term patches that have been used in the past to postpone true payment reform.

We look forward to working with you and the Administration to secure passage of Medicare physician payment reform legislation that will be signed into law.

Sincerely,

AMDA--Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Neurology Professional Association

American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Pain Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons
American Association of Neurological 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 Chest Physicians
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
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 Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Association
American Medical Group Association
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society for Surgery of the Hand
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Thoracic Society
American Urological Association

Association of American Medical Colleges
College of American Pathologists
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists
Emergency Department Practice Management Association
Heart Rhythm Society
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Society for Clinical Densitometry
International Spine Intervention Society
Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
Medical Group Management Association
National Medical Association
Renal Physicians Association
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Interventional Radiology
The Endocrine Society
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Arizona Medical Association
Arkansas Medical Society
California Medical Association
Colorado Medical Society
Connecticut State Medical Society
Medical Society of Delaware
Medical Society of the District of Columbia
Florida Medical Association Inc
Medical Association of Georgia
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
New Mexico Medical Society
Medical Society of the State of New York
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. House of Representatives