



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

March 27, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Reid:

The undersigned organizations of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (the Alliance) write to express our disappointment that the Senate did not address the Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula before leaving town for two weeks. **We strongly urge you to pass H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 upon the Senate's return.** As you know, the current SGR patch expires on March 31, 2015 leaving physicians with a 21 percent cut.

The Alliance is a coalition of medical specialty societies representing more than 100,000 physicians and surgeons. The Alliance is very appreciative of the time and perseverance in crafting and negotiating this legislation. Physicians and seniors have waited long enough for Congress to address this significant flaw in our nation's largest health program. Each year since 2002, the SGR formula has called for a substantial reduction in Medicare physician payment rates. In 2002, payment rates were reduced by 5.4 percent. In each subsequent year, Congress has overridden the formula and these short-term "fixes" exacerbate efforts to address the underlying problem, add to the overall costs of repeal, and continue to undermine physician and beneficiary confidence in the Medicare program.

Again, we urge the United States Senate to pass H.R. 2 immediately upon return from recess. We stand ready to support you in taking this critical step that would lay the foundation for longer-term sustainability and solvency in the Medicare program.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Association of Spine Specialists
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Excellence in Eyecare