



The Key to Good Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2010

Contact: info@specialtydocs.org

(202) 441-3515

Specialty Doctors Welcome New Energy and Commerce Committee Chair

Alliance of Specialty Medicine applauds Republican Caucus selection of Fred Upton to key position

WASHINGTON, DC – The [Alliance of Specialty Medicine](http://www.SpecialtyDocs.org) (Alliance) today applauded the House Republican Caucus selection of Fred Upton (R-MI) as chairman of the United States House Committee on Energy and Commerce for the 112th Congress.

“Fred Upton is a respected and qualified lawmaker who has advocated for common sense solutions to our nation’s health care challenges,” said Dr. Alex B. Valadka, a neurosurgeon from Austin, TX. “The Alliance is confident that the House Republicans made the right decision in choosing Mr. Upton for this important chairmanship. We look forward to working closely with him to develop sound health care policies to help ensure America’s patients have access to the high quality specialty medical care they deserve.”

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine actively engaged in policy discussions during the health care reform debate and continues to work with Members of Congress to develop public policies that strengthen our nation’s health care delivery system.

Most recently, the Alliance has encouraged Congress to establish a permanent fix to the Sustainable Growth Rate Formula (SGR), which updates physician payment rates for treating Medicare patients. The Alliance has also called for a repeal of the Independent Advisory Board (IPAB), a government entity created by the Affordable Care Act to cut Medicare expenditures. The IPAB is a 15-member board of non-elected officials charged with recommending vast Medicare spending cuts. The Alliance believes these Medicare cuts would further endanger seniors' access to doctors and lead to rationing of care.

Dr. Valadka called on Congressman Upton to help put a spotlight on these important issues.

“I am confident that Mr. Upton will use his new position as Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman to bring attention to important health care issues that are affecting patients in the United States today. First, he should help protect America’s seniors from diminished availability and quality of medical care by pushing for a permanent fix to the SGR. Also, the IPAB must be repealed before the panel does any damage to the Medicare program. I hope Mr. Upton will help protect the quality of care available to our nation’s senior citizens.”

For more information on the Alliance, visit www.SpecialtyDocs.org. To view Dr. Valadka’s recent interview on issues important to specialty doctors published in Becker’s Hospital Review, please [click here](#).

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine is an organization of national medical societies, based in Washington, DC, which represents specialty physicians in the United States. This non-partisan group is dedicated to the development of sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. Member organizations include: American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery; American Association of Neurological Surgeons; American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons; American Gastroenterological Association; American Society of Cataract & Refractive

Surgery; American Urological Association; Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations; Congress of Neurological Surgeons; National Association of Spine Specialists; Heart Rhythm Society; and Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions. For more information, please visit www.specialtydocs.org.

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