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March 23, 2015

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
230 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
221 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Representative Pelosi, Republican Leader McConnell and Senator Reid:

On behalf of the American Medical Association, I am offering our strong support for H.R. 1470/ S. 810, the “SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2015.” This legislation represents years of bipartisan effort to eliminate the fatally flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula and support the implementation of new payment and delivery models that will promote high-quality care while reducing costs.

It is critical that the House and Senate pass this legislation in the coming week, before the current Medicare “patch” expires and all physician services are subject to a 21 percent payment cut on April 1. The continual threat of annual payment cuts and occasionally missed patch deadlines, combined with overlapping and often conflicting quality reporting programs, have impeded physician efforts to invest in adoption of alternative payment models that promote greater accountability for the cost and quality of care they provide. Enactment of H.R. 1470/ S. 810 represents an enormous improvement in the health care system in a market segment that has been neglected for far too long.

In addition to stabilizing the Medicare program for our nation’s seniors, this legislation also provides an opportunity for Congress to address the health care needs of children and low-income Americans by extending funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program and providing critical support for Community Health Centers.

We are encouraged by the bipartisan leadership and collaboration that produced this legislation, and urge all members of the House and Senate to support it when it comes up for a vote on the floor.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD

cc: United States House of Representatives  
United States Senate