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The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing regarding necessary Senate action to repeal the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). Congress is closer than ever to enacting legislation that would repeal the dysfunctional Medicare physician payment system because the Senate Finance Committee and the House committees of jurisdiction worked together in a bipartisan, bicameral manner for over a year. It would be a shame for lawmakers to have done all of that hard work only to have it overcome by partisan politics.

The AMA continues to strongly support the physician payment and delivery system reform policy contained in the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014 (S. 2000), which is included verbatim in bills introduced by Senator Wyden and Senator Hatch. These policies include key reforms that advance quality care, improve care coordination, and promise to lower total Medicare costs. There is no difference between the parties, or for that matter the House and Senate, over actual SGR replacement policy.

We support bipartisan Senate action to repeal the SGR next week before the expiration of the current patch. In fact, the Senate will only be able to proceed to consideration of such legislation through bipartisan cooperation. Therefore, we renew our call for both parties to engage in good faith, bipartisan efforts to address remaining issues and pass the legislation. We stand ready to work with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD