

March 12, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Minority Whip
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Cantor, Leader Pelosi, and Whip Hoyer:

The undersigned organizations, representing Medicare beneficiaries and providers, appreciate the bipartisan, bicameral work done to repeal the sustainable growth rate (SGR) and reform the Medicare reimbursement system. The reimbursement cuts of 24 percent scheduled for April 1 will drastically impact the ability of Medicare beneficiaries to access health care providers, as well as the ability of those providers to treat them. We call on Congress to continue pursuing a permanent and equitable solution to the perpetual SGR problem.

The current effort to link SGR reform with changes to the Affordable Care Act, however, injects partisan politics into the bi-partisan legislation. Access to health care for the more than 50 million Americans with Medicare is a serious matter – scheduling a vote on a bill which does not have bipartisan support undermines the months of hard work done by the Committees, their staffs, and concerned stakeholders.

We urge you to instead refocus on reaching agreement on a Medicare reimbursement reform bill which stabilizes provider payment, increases value and quality, protects beneficiary access and affordability, and is paid for fairly and responsibly. While we all desire a permanent replacement for the SGR, we recognize that only a short time remains before the March 31 deadline. We remain willing and eager to work with you, both over the long and short term, as we have throughout this process.

Sincerely,

AARP

Families USA

Alliance for Retired Americans

Medicare Rights Center

American Academy of Family Physicians

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

American Geriatrics Society

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

American Osteopathic Association

Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc

National Council on Aging