

June 29, 2011

Letter to Senate Finance Committee, House Ways and Means Committee---

Dear Senator/Representative,

The undersigned medical organizations, representing physicians and other health care provider organizations dedicated to high quality imaging, are writing to convey our strong opposition to payment cuts to medical imaging services in the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011. Further payment cuts in medical imaging services would negatively impact patient access to high quality, cost effective options in imaging and diagnostic services. Our organizations are deeply concerned that these cuts, if implemented, would further undermine efforts to promote the delivery of integrated, patient-centered care that could improve outcomes and help curb rising health care costs.

Over the years, legislative and regulatory changes have led to significant cuts in Medicare payments for advanced imaging and other diagnostic imaging procedures. Continued reductions to imaging services cannot be absorbed by physician practices without impacting quality and access to high quality care. In addition, these provisions would exacerbate an already challenging situation for physicians who serve Medicare patients by taking additional dollars away from Medicare to be used for an entirely unrelated program, all while doing nothing to address the broken and unsustainable Medicare physician payment system.

Therefore, we urge you to remove these provisions that further reduce patient access to medical imaging services. We stand ready to work with Congress to ensure that any future policy changes affecting diagnostic imaging take into account the substantial changes that already have been implemented by CMS, by Congress and by diagnostic imaging providers, and ensure that patients retain access to diagnostic services performed in physicians' offices.

American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Association of Clinical Urologists  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Group Association  
American Society for Neuroimaging  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Urological Association  
Association of Black Cardiologists

Cardiology Advocacy Alliance  
Large Urology Group Practice Association  
Medical Group Management Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography