

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in sending the attached letter to Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor, Minority Leader Pelosi and Minority Whip Hoyer to express our opposition to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission's (MedPAC's) recommendation to replace the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula with a payment structure that, if implemented, would threaten the ability of seniors and disabled Americans to access care from a qualified physicians and other health care providers when faced with a potentially life-altering or even life-threatening illness.

As you know, on Medicare provider payments are scheduled to be cut 29.5 percent from current levels on January 1, 2012. Since Medicare payments were cut 5.4 percent in 2002, congressional action has prevented further cuts in every year since, and it was not until 2009 that payments returned to 2001 levels.

While surveys have shown tenuous situation facing patients and providers in Medicare, on October 6, MedPAC released final recommendations to replace the SGR with a Medicare payment model that included a freeze in payments to primary care physicians and healthcare professionals over the next ten years while reducing payments to all other physicians and healthcare professionals by 5.9 percent per year between 2012 and 2014. These cuts would be followed by a seven-year freeze in Medicare payments to these other physician and healthcare professional specialties. Unfortunately, while MedPAC's recommendation would eliminate the SGR, it would do so in a manner that would threaten access to care for millions of America's most vulnerable citizens.

Please join us in sending the attached letter to Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor, Minority Leader Pelosi and Minority Whip Hoyer expressing opposition to this recommendation and any other inequitable and unbalanced legislative proposals that would fail to address the challenges faced by all providers in Medicare.

Please contact James Paluskiewicz at James.Paluskiewicz@mail.house.gov in Congressman Burgess' office or Abigail Pinkele at Abigail.Pinkele@mail.house.gov in Congressman Green's office to sign onto this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress

Gene Greene
Member of Congress