



AMERICAN
COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC
INTERNISTS

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May 20, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Speaker Pelosi:

I write to inform you of our support for the “American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act” (H.R. 4213). This legislation takes important steps to protect and improve access to Medicare services for millions of beneficiaries and prevents scheduled reductions in physician reimbursement under the Medicare program.

The American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI), which represents the nation’s osteopathic internists and medical subspecialists, is committed to assisting its members’ efforts to provide high-quality care and to ensure that their patients have access to this care when they need it most. H.R. 4213 promotes these goals by addressing physician reimbursement under the Medicare program in a manner that will provide stability and predictability over the next few years—something that has been sorely lacking.

Without Congressional intervention, physicians will experience a 21.3 percent reduction in reimbursements effective June 1. We appreciate that this legislation would provide a positive update for the remainder of 2010 and 2011. Furthermore, the ACOI is supportive of the provisions in this bill that would guarantee that there would be no cuts in 2012 and 2013 for all physicians and would provide additional increases in reimbursement for services commonly associated with primary and preventive care.

The ACOI appreciates your efforts to end the month-to-month approach to addressing reductions in physician reimbursements which has created great uncertainty and threatened to compromise access to health care services for millions of Medicare beneficiaries. We remain, however, concerned with the “cliff” that will occur once the provisions of this legislation expire. To this end, the ACOI remains committed to securing a permanent repeal of the Sustainable Growth Rate formula.

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The "American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act" (H.R. 4213) is significant legislation for both physicians and the patients they serve. To this end, we support the H.R. 4213 and look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Clearfield, DO, FACOI
President

C: The Honorable Richard Durbin, Majority Whip
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader
The Honorable Max Baucus, Chairman, Finance Committee
The Honorable Carl Levin, Chairman, Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Henry Waxman, Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee
The Honorable Pete Stark, Chairman, Ways and Means Health Subcommittee
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman, Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee