



October 15, 2009

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

I write to inform you of the American College of Osteopathic Internists' (ACOI) support for the "Medicare Physician Fairness Act of 2009" (S. 1776). This legislation takes important steps to protect and improve access to Medicare services for millions of beneficiaries.

The ACOI represents the nation's osteopathic internists and medical subspecialists, including residents and fellows in those fields, and is dedicated to the advancement of osteopathic internal medicine through excellence in education, advocacy, research and the opportunity for service. Further, the ACOI is committed to assisting its members' efforts to provide the highest level of quality care. Central to the attainment of these goals is adequate reimbursement under the Medicare program.

We applaud your efforts to advance legislation to repeal the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula. As you know, physicians are plagued by the uncertainty of the formula and face annually the possibility of Medicare reimbursements not covering the basic cost of providing care to Medicare beneficiaries. Recently, physicians have had to rely on Congress to prevent reductions on an annual basis. As you know, physicians are facing an average reduction of 21 percent in 2010 with additional reductions totaling over 40 percent in the next few years. This is simply unsustainable. S. 1776, by repealing the SGR formula, takes important steps to repair this broken system. We believe meaningful SGR reform as provided for in S. 1776 is essential for protecting and expanding access to care for Medicare beneficiaries.

The "Medicare Physician Fairness Act of 2009" (S. 1776) is important legislation for both physicians and the patients they serve. To this end, we support S. 1776 and look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MS, FACOI, FACP  
President

Cc: ACOI Board of Directors  
ACOI Clinical Practice Committee  
ACOI Government Affairs Committee