Dear Leaders of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce Committees:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the undersigned osteopathic state & specialty organizations, and the more than 104,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students we represent, we write to thank you for introducing the "SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act" (HR 4015/S 2000), and to express our strong support of the legislation.

The undersigned organizations greatly appreciate the bipartisan and bicameral work of your committees in producing legislation through a collaborative process with the physician community and other stakeholders. We support the bill's approach to reform the Medicare physician payment system that includes permanent repeal of the sustainable growth rate (SGR), a period of stability with 0.5 percent positive updates for all physicians for five years, incentives for transitioning to alternative payment models that include the Patient-Centered Medical Home, and an opportunity for physician organizations and specialty societies to develop their own alternative payment models—all within the next decade.

Today we find ourselves with Medicare physician payment policy that is jeopardizing access to physician services for our growing senior population, and threatening the overall financial security of the program. While recognizing the cost of a permanent solution to this dilemma remains substantial, the currently estimated $130 billion cost to reform the physician payment system over the next decade is now less than the more than $150 billion already spent in the last decade on temporary patches to avert payment cuts. There is finally bipartisan and bicameral agreement that our nation can no longer afford to simply "kick the can down the road," and must place Medicare on a fiscally stable path by enacting your legislation.

Thank you again for your hard work in developing and together introducing this legislation that can finally bring this important issue to a successful conclusion. We hope that Congressional leadership will now seize this opportunity to stabilize the Medicare program and enact these improvements for current and future generations of beneficiaries by bringing the bill to the floor for a vote. Correcting this ongoing problem is in
the best interest of Congress, physicians, and, most importantly, patients. We believe this is the time to achieve a permanent solution as you have proposed. The undersigned organizations and our members stand ready to assist you in securing its enactment into law.

American Osteopathic Association
Alaska Osteopathic Medical Association
American Academy of Osteopathy
American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians & Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine
Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association
Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association
Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society
Indiana Osteopathic Association
Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
Kentucky Osteopathic Medical Association
Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association
Massachusetts Osteopathic Society, Inc.
Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Society
Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association
Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons
Missouri Chapter of the American College of Osteopathic Internists
Missouri Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Nevada Osteopathic Medical Association
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons
New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association
Ohio Osteopathic Association
Ohio State Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Oklahoma Osteopathic Association
Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California
Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association
Rhode Island Society of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons
South Dakota Osteopathic Association
Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Vermont State Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons
Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association
Washington Osteopathic Medical Association, Inc.
Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons