



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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February 26, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Chairman  
House Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sandy M. Levin  
Ranking Member  
House Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Ranking Member  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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