March 5, 2014

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Representative Pelosi:

Long-awaited bipartisan legislation to permanently repeal the fatally flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula is now before both chambers of Congress with the recent introduction of the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014 (H.R. 4015/ S. 2000). The undersigned physician organizations strongly urge you to pass this legislation by March 31st.

Congress has long recognized the imperative of reforming the Medicare physician payment system. Over the past 12 years, Congress has spent $153.7 billion on 16 SGR patches, far more than the cost of permanently reforming the Medicare physician payment system. Further reliance on legislative patches is fiscally irresponsible. We can no longer afford to spend taxpayer money on stopgap measures that preserve a failed policy.

This bipartisan, bicameral agreement is a significant achievement resulting from tireless efforts among the three key congressional committees of jurisdiction to develop a solution for a problem that has bedeviled lawmakers for years. This legislation incorporates many recommendations from the physician community to reform the health care delivery and physician payment system and improve care for America’s seniors. It also includes significant resources and tools to help physicians transition to new payment and delivery models.

We strongly urge you to quickly seize the opportunity to take advantage of this work and momentum to finally break the SGR status quo and pass a long-term solution. Physicians are once again facing looming Medicare cuts of 24 percent on April 1.

The physician community stands ready and eager to work with you to advance this critical legislation to build a more stable Medicare program that will better serve America’s senior citizens.

Sincerely

American Medical Association
Aerospace Medical Association
AMDA - Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Societies
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association of Foot and Ankle Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Executives
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Cardiology
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Phlebology
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiation Oncology
American College of Radiology
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Women’s Association
American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society for Surgery of the Hand
American Society of Bariatric Physicians
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery/American Society of Ophthalmic Administrators
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Dermatopathology
American Society of General Surgeons
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Society of Retina Specialists
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Spinal Injury Association
American Thoracic Society
American Urogynecologic Society
American Urological Association
Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine
Association of Otolaryngology Administrators
Cervical Spine Research Society
Child Neurology Society
College of American Pathologists
Eastern Orthopaedic Association
Heart Rhythm Society
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Spine Intervention Society
Medical Group Management Association
Musculoskeletal Tumor Society
National Association of Spine Specialists
Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Association
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America
Renal Physicians Associations
Scoliosis Research Society
Society for Vascular Medicine
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Interventional Radiology
Southern Orthopaedic Association
The Endocrine Society
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
Western Orthopaedic Association

Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology
Alabama Academy of Radiology
Alabama Cancer Congress
Alabama Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Alabama Orthopaedic Society
Alabama Psychiatric Physicians Association
Alabama Society of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists – Alabama Section
American College of Physicians – Alabama Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Alabama Chapter

Alaska State Medical Association
Alaska Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
Alaska Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Alaska Psychiatric Association
Alaska Radiological Society
American College of Physicians – Alaska Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Alaska Chapter
Denali Oncology Group

Arizona Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Arizona Chapter
Arizona Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Arizona Ophthalmological Society
Arizona Psychiatric Society
Arizona Radiological Society
Arizona United Rheumatology Alliance

Arkansas Medical Society
American College of Physicians – Arkansas Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Arkansas Chapter
Arkansas Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Arkansas Ophthalmological Society
Arkansas Orthopaedic Society
Arkansas Psychiatric Society
Arkansas State Rheumatology Association

California Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Southern California Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Northern California Chapter
American College of Surgeons – San Diego Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Southern California Chapter
Association of Northern California Oncologists
California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
California Association of Long Term Care Medicine
California Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
California Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
California Otolaryngology Society
California Psychiatric Association
California Radiological Society
California Rheumatology Alliance
California Society of Pathologists
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California
San Diego Academy of Otolaryngology
San Diego Psychiatric Society
Southern California Psychiatric Society

Colorado Medical Society
American College of Physicians Colorado Chapter
Colorado Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Colorado Dermatologic Society
Colorado Orthopaedic Society
Colorado Psychiatric Society
Colorado Radiological Society
Colorado Rheumatology Association
Colorado Society of Clinical Pathologists
Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Rocky Mountain Oncology Society

Connecticut State Medical Society
American College of Physicians – Connecticut Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Connecticut Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologist - Connecticut Section
Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians
Connecticut Ear, Nose, and Throat Society
Connecticut Medical Directors Association
Connecticut Oncology Association
Connecticut Orthopaedic Society
Connecticut Psychiatric Society
Connecticut Rheumatology Alliance
Radiological Society of Connecticut

Medical Society of Delaware
American College of Physicians – Delaware Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Delaware Chapter
Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology
Delaware Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Delaware Chapter of American College of Emergency Physicians
Delaware Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Delaware Pathology Society
Delaware Radiological Society
Delaware Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons
Delaware Society for Clinical Oncology
Psychiatric Society of Delaware

Medical Society of the District of Columbia
American College of Surgeons – District of Columbia Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - DC Section
Capital District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association
District of Columbia Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Maryland, DC Society of Clinical Oncology*
Rheumatism Society of the District of Columbia
Washington DC Metropolitan Ophthalmological Society
Washington Metropolitan Area Otolaryngology Society
Florida Society of Neurology
American College of Physicians – Florida Chapter
American College of Surgeons – South Florida Chapter
Florida Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Florida College of Emergency Physicians
Florida Medical Directors Association
Florida Psychiatric Society
Florida Radiological Society
Florida Society of Clinical Oncology
Florida Society of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Florida Society of Ophthalmology
Florida Society of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Florida Society of Pathologists
Florida Society of Rheumatology
Society of Hospital Medicine - Western Florida Chapter

Medical Association of Georgia
American College of Physicians – Georgia Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Georgia Society of the ACS
Georgia Association of Pathologists
Georgia Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Georgia College of Emergency Physicians
Georgia Orthopaedic Society
Georgia Radiological Society
Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology
Georgia Society of Rheumatology
Metro Atlantic Educational Society for Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Metro Atlanta Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Society

Hawaii Medical Association
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Hawaii Section
Hawaii Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Hawaii Radiological Society
Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology
Hawaii Society of Pathologists
Society of Hospital Medicine – Hawaii Chapter

Idaho Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Idaho Chapter
Idaho Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Idaho Psychiatric Association
Idaho Society of Clinical Oncology
Idaho Society of Ophthalmology
Idaho Society of Pathologists
Illinois State Medical Society
American College of Physicians – Illinois Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Illinois Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Metropolitan Chicago Chapter
Illinois Association of Ophthalmology
Illinois Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Illinois Medical Oncology Society
Illinois Psychiatric Society
Illinois Society of Pathologists

Indiana State Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Indiana Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Indiana Chapter
Central Indiana Otolaryngology Society
Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology
Indiana Association of Pathologists
Indiana Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Indiana Neurological Society
Indiana Oncology Society
Indiana Orthopedic Society
Indiana Psychiatric Society
Indiana Radiological Society

Iowa Medical Society
Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology
Iowa Association of Pathologists
Iowa Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
Iowa Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Iowa Dermatological Society
Iowa Neurological Association
Iowa Oncology Society
Iowa Psychiatric Society
Iowa Radiological Society

American College of Surgeons – Kansas Chapter
Kansas Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
Kansas Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Kansas Psychiatric Society
Kansas Society of Clinical Oncology
Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Kansas Society of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Kansas Society of Pathologists

Kentucky Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Kentucky Chapter
Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Mississippi Radiological Society

Missouri State Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Missouri Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Missouri Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Missouri Section
Missouri Association of Long Term Care Practitioners
Missouri Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
Missouri Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Missouri Dermatological Society
Missouri Oncology Society
Missouri Psychiatric Association
Missouri Radiological Society
Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Missouri Society of Pathologists
Missouri State Neurological Association
Missouri State Orthopaedic Association
Society of Hospital Medicine – St. Louis Chapter

Montana Radiological Society
American College of Physicians - Montana Chapter
Montana Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Montana Society of Clinical Oncology
Montana State Pathology Society

Nebraska Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Nebraska Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Nebraska Section
Nebraska Association of Pathologists
Nebraska Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Nebraska Oncology Society
Nebraska Psychiatric Society

Nevada State Medical Association
American College of Surgeons – Nevada Chapter
Nevada Academy of Ophthalmology
Nevada Association of Pathologists
Nevada Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Nevada Orthopaedic Society
Nevada Psychiatric Association
Nevada Radiological Society

New Hampshire Medical Society
American College of Physicians – New Hampshire Chapter
Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire Rheumatology Association*
New Hampshire Psychiatric Society
New Hampshire Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
New Hampshire Society of Pathologists
Northern New England Chapter of the American College of Cardiology*
Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society*

Medical Society of New Jersey
American College of Physicians – New Jersey Chapter
American College of Surgeons – New Jersey Chapter
Dermatological Society of New Jersey
Medical Oncology Society of New Jersey
New Jersey Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
New Jersey Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
New Jersey Medical Directors Association
New Jersey Orthopaedic Society
New Jersey Psychiatric Association
New Jersey Society of Pathologists
Radiological Society of New Jersey

New Mexico Medical Society
American College of Physicians - New Mexico Chapter
New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology
New Mexico Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
New Mexico Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
New Mexico Medical Directors Association
New Mexico Orthopaedic Association
New Mexico Society of Clinical Oncology
Psychiatric Medical Association of New Mexico

American College of Physicians – New York Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Brooklyn/Long Island Chapter
American College of Surgeons – New York Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - New York Section 10
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists – New York State Section 9
Central New York District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association
Greater Long Island Psychiatric Society
New York American College of Emergency Physicians
New York Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
New York County District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association
New York Laryngological Society
New York Medical Directors Association
New York Otologic Society
New York State Neurological Society
New York State Psychiatric Association
New York State Radiological Society
New York State Rheumatology Society
New York State Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery
New York State Society of Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery
New York State Society of Pathologists
Northern New York District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association
Psychiatric Society of Westchester County
Society of Hospital Medicine – New York City/Westchester Chapter
Society of Hospital Medicine – Upstate New York Chapter
Upstate New York Society of Medical Oncology and Hematology
West Hudson Psychiatric Society

North Carolina Medical Society
American College of Physicians North Carolina Chapter
American College of Surgeons – North Carolina Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - North Carolina Section
Carolinac Chapter, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
North Carolina Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians
North Carolina Dermatology Association
North Carolina Medical Directors Association
North Carolina Neurological Society
North Carolina Oncology Association
North Carolina Orthopaedic Association
North Carolina Psychiatric Association
North Carolina Radiological Society
North Carolina Rheumatology Association
North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
North Carolina Society of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
North Carolina Society of Pathologists

North Dakota Medical Association
American College of Surgeons – North Dakota Chapter
Great Plains Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
North Dakota Orthopaedic Society
North Dakota Psychiatric Society
North Dakota Radiological Society
North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Ohio State Medical Association
American College of Physicians Ohio Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Ohio Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Ohio Section
Northeastern Ohio Society of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Northwest Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Ohio Association of Rheumatology
Ohio Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Ohio Dermatological Association
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society
Ohio Orthopaedic Society
Ohio Society of Pathologists
Ohio State Radiological Society

Oklahoma State Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Oklahoma Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Oklahoma Section
Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
Oklahoma Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Oklahoma Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association
Oklahoma Society of Clinical Oncology
Oklahoma State Association of Pathologists
Oklahoma State Dermatology Society

Oregon Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Oregon Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Oregon Chapter
Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology
Oregon Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
Oregon Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
Oregon Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Oregon Pathologists Association
Oregon Rheumatology Alliance
Oregon Society of Medical Oncology

Pennsylvania Medical Society
American College of Physicians – Pennsylvania Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Keystone Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Northwest Pennsylvania Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Southwest Pennsylvania Chapter
Pennsylvania Academy of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery
Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Pennsylvania Association of Long Term Medicine
Pennsylvania Association of Pathologists
Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Pennsylvania Neurological Society
Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society
Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society
Pennsylvania Radiological Society
Pennsylvania Rheumatology Society
Pennsylvania Society of Oncology & Hematology

Puerto Rico Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Puerto Rico Chapter of the American College of Radiology
Puerto Rico Ophthalmology Society

Rhode Island Medical Society
American College of Physicians Rhode Island Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Rhode Island Chapter
Rhode Island Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Rhode Island Psychiatric Society
Rhode Island Society of Ear Nose Throat Physicians
Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Rhode Island Society of Pathologists
Society of Rhode Island Clinical Oncologists

South Carolina Medical Association
American College of Physicians – South Carolina Chapter
American College of Surgeons – South Carolina Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - South Carolina Section
South Carolina Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
South Carolina College of Emergency Physicians
South Carolina Dermatological Association
South Carolina Medical Directors Association
South Carolina Neurological Association
South Carolina Oncology Society
South Carolina Psychiatric Association
South Carolina Radiological Society
South Carolina Rheumatism Society
South Carolina Society of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
South Carolina Society of Pathologists

South Dakota State Medical Association
American College of Physicians – South Dakota Chapter
American College of Surgeons – South Dakota Chapter
South Dakota Psychiatric Association
South Dakota Radiological Society
South Dakota Society of Pathologists

Tennessee Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Tennessee Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Tennessee Chapter
Tennessee Academy of Ophthalmology
Tennessee Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
Tennessee Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Tennessee Dermatology Society
Tennessee Oncology Practice Society
Tennessee Orthopaedic Society
Tennessee Rheumatology Society
Tennessee Society of Pathologists

Texas Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Texas Chapter
American College of Surgeons – North Texas Chapter
American College of Surgeons – South Texas Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Texas Section 5
Central Texas Rheumatology Society
Rheumatology Society of North Texas
South Texas Association of Rheumatologists
Texas Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Texas Neurological Society
Texas Ophthalmological Association
Texas Orthopaedic Association
Texas Radiological Society
Texas Society of Clinical Oncology
Texas Society of Pathologists

Utah Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Utah Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Utah Section
Society of Utah Medical Oncologists
Utah Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Utah Psychiatric Association
Utah Radiological Society
Utah Society of Dermatologic Medicine and Surgery
Utah Society of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Utah Society of Pathologists

Vermont Medical Society
American College of Physicians – Vermont Chapter
Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society*
Vermont Otolaryngology Society
Vermont Psychiatric Association

Medical Society of Virginia
American College of Physicians –Virginia Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Virginia Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Virginia Section
Commonwealth Neurological Society
Psychiatric Society of Virginia
Virginia Association of Hematology and Oncology
Virginia Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Virginia Chapter of the American College of Radiology
Virginia College of Emergency Physicians
Virginia Medical Directors Association
Virginia Orthopaedic Society
Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Virginia Society of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Virginia Society of Pathologists
Virginia Society of Rheumatologists

Washington State Medical Association
American College of Physicians – Washington State Chapter
American College of Surgeons – Washington Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Washington State Section
Northwest Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Washington Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
Washington Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Washington Medical Directors Association
Washington Psychiatric Association
Washington State Dermatology
Washington State Medical Oncology Society
Washington State Neurological Society
Washington State Rheumatology Association
Washington State Society of Pathologists

West Virginia State Medical Association
American College of Physicians – West Virginia Chapter
West Virginia Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
West Virginia Association of Pathologists
West Virginia Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
West Virginia Neurological Society
West Virginia Oncology Society
West Virginia Psychiatric Association
West Virginia Rheumatology State Society

Wisconsin Medical Society
American College of Physicians – Wisconsin Chapter
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Wisconsin Section
Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
Wisconsin Association of Hematology & Oncology
Wisconsin Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Wisconsin Dermatological Society
Wisconsin Orthopaedic Society
Wisconsin Psychiatric Association
Wisconsin Society of Pathologists, Inc.
Wisconsin Surgical Society Chapter of the American College of Surgeons

Wyoming Medical Society
Wyoming Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians
Wyoming Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Wyoming Radiological Society

* These chapters are listed in multiple states

cc: U.S. House of Representatives