

March 26, 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:

On behalf of the undersigned physician organizations, we are writing to express our strong opposition to H.R. 4302, the "Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014," and we urge you to vote against the bill when it is considered on the floor.

Instead of reforming the Medicare physician payment system, Congress seems intent on imposing yet another round of arbitrary provider payment reductions to maintain a corrosive policy that essentially every Member of Congress says should be scrapped. Importantly, by selectively choosing cost savings proposals that were included in the bipartisan, bicameral policy framework set forth in H.R. 4015 and S. 2000, the bill being considered would undermine future passage of that framework and add to the instability that now impedes the development and adoption of health care delivery and payment innovations that can strengthen the Medicare program.

It appears that an unprecedented, bipartisan agreement on Medicare reform is on the verge of being cast aside because elected leaders are unwilling to make tough choices to strengthen programs serving 50 million Americans. We strongly urge Members to vote against this legislation and renew our call for all parties to engage in good faith, bipartisan efforts to enact the physician payment and delivery system reform policy contained in H.R. 4015/ S. 2000, the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act. The endless cycle of short-term remedies that serve to support a failed policy are no longer acceptable.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
 American College of Emergency Physicians  
 American College of Gastroenterology  
 American College of Mohs Surgery  
 American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
 American College of Osteopathic Internists  
 American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
 American College of Phlebology  
 American College of Physicians  
 American College of Surgeons  
 American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
 American Gastroenterological Association  
 American Geriatrics Society  
 American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society  
 American Osteopathic Association  
 American Pediatric Surgical Association  
 American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
 American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
 American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
 American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
 American Society of Clinical Oncology  
 American Society of Disability Evaluating Physicians  
 American Society of General Surgeons  
 American Society of Hematology  
 American Society of Nephrology  
 American Urogynecologic Society  
 American Urological Association  
 College of American Pathologists  
 Infectious Diseases Society of America  
 Medical Group Management Association  
 National Association of Medical Examiners  
 North American Spine Society  
 National Association of Spine Specialists  
 Renal Physicians Association  
 Society of Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
 Society of Critical Care Medicine  
 Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
 Society of Hospital Medicine  
 Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
  
 Alaska State Medical Association  
 Arkansas Medical Society  
 Connecticut State Medical Society  
 Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
 Medical Association of Georgia

Hawaii Medical Association  
Idaho Medical Association  
Illinois State Medical Society  
Indiana State Medical Association  
Iowa Medical Society  
Kentucky Medical Association  
Maine Medical Association  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Michigan State Medical Society  
Minnesota Medical Association  
Mississippi State Medical Association  
Missouri State Medical Association  
Montana Medical Association  
Nebraska Medical Association  
Nevada State Medical Association  
Medical Society of the State of New York  
North Dakota Medical Association  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Oregon Medical Association  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Rhode Island Medical Society  
South Dakota State Medical Association  
Utah Medical Association  
Vermont Medical Society  
Medical Society of Virginia  
Washington State Medical Association  
Wisconsin Medical Society  
Wyoming Medical Society

cc: U.S. House of Representatives