

## Take Action on SGR Reform!

The U.S. House of Representatives approved (392-37 vote) the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 2) on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015. It moved to the U.S. Senate, however the Senate failed to bring to a vote legislation to repeal the flawed Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula before leaving for April recess early this morning. Because the Senate failed to enact permanent SGR repeal legislation before the March 31 deadline and a 21% physician payment cut will take effect April 1, 2015.

For more than a decade, the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula used to set Medicare physician payments has caused instability and uncertainty for urology practices around the country. Despite this recent inaction, momentum is gaining on finally achieving a permanent SGR repeal. It is imperative that the Senate pass this critical legislation now. Please contact your lawmakers today to urge them to support this bill immediately upon their return to Washington on April 13. They need to hear from you!

Please take a moment to share with your lawmaker the toll that endless SGR patches and economic uncertainty takes on your practice and patients, and encourage them to support H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. Take action now!

Dear Senator:

As a urologist who treats Medicare patients in New York State and a member of the New York Urological Society, I write to you today to encourage you to support repeal of the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula. The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 2) presents a viable long-term solution to fix the fatally flawed SGR used to calculate Medicare physician payments.

For more than a decade, my practice has struggled under yearly threats of payment cuts, impacting my ability to sustain a viable practice in my community. While short-term patches have alleviated those cuts, it is extremely difficult to develop and execute long-term business strategies that will benefit my patients. As a physician and as a constituent, I ask you to seize this opportunity to make meaningful change by enacting a permanent solution to the SGR. Please support this critical bill as soon as you return to Washington on April 13. Failing to take action then will result in serious disruptions to my practice and my ability to care for Medicare patients.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_, M.D.