



July 10, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Reid, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Boehner, and Ms. Pelosi:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Medical Group Association (AMGA), I am writing to you concerning advanced diagnostic imaging services. Specifically, I am writing to respectfully ask you to oppose any legislation that would restrict the ability of multi-specialty medical groups and other organized systems of care to coordinate the care of their patients by eliminating their ability to furnish advanced diagnostic imaging services.

As you may know, AMGA represents multi-specialty medical groups and other organized systems of care, including some of the nation's largest, most prestigious integrated health care delivery systems. More specifically, AMGA represents 415 medical groups that employ nearly 125,000 physicians who annually treat more than 130 million patients in 49 states.

AMGA members are committed to delivering efficient, high-quality, patient-centered care to patients at the right time. Many AMGA members utilize decision support tools to ensure that clinical decision-making is supported by evidence before ordering advanced diagnostic imaging services.

We have a vested interest in ensuring the highest of ethical standards in provider conduct and are devoted to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. However, we are concerned about actual and conceptual legislative proposals that are being discussed on Capitol Hill related to advanced diagnostic imaging services. Many of these proposals are transparent attempts to channel resources to certain markets and will negatively impact some of the nation's most well-respected health care institutions and the patients that they serve.

At a time when the federal government is providing incentives for health care providers to integrate care delivery, such as the Medicare Shared Savings Program, these legislative proposals

would run counter to Congressional intent to stimulate greater integration and care coordination. Patients who live in rural or underserved areas especially would experience access problems in short order, and face the inconvenience of long travel distances to obtain necessary advanced diagnostic imaging services. Patients could be harmed due to increased inconvenience in obtaining advanced diagnostic imaging services which could result in missed diagnoses, or treatment of illnesses that if diagnosed earlier, would have better outcomes and be less costly to treat.

We recognize that some iterations of legislation concerning advanced diagnostic imaging have attempted to carve out multi-specialty medical groups. However, we are seriously concerned that these exceptions fail to provide multi-specialty medical groups and other organized systems of care with adequate protections that will truly preserve their ability to provide advanced diagnostic imaging services.

We understand our nation's fiscal condition and appreciate efforts to curb waste, fraud, and abuse. However, it is our hope that any legislation concerning advanced diagnostic imaging will preserve the ability of multi-specialty medical groups and other organized systems of care to provide advanced diagnostic imaging services.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration. As always, my members and I stand ready to work with you on this important health care issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald W. Fisher".

Donald W. Fisher, Ph.D.
President and CEO