



1422 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

March 8, 2004

Senator Jim Bunning  
316 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bunning:

On behalf of the American Medical Group Association (AMGA), I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your Sense of the Senate language on Returning Stability to Payments under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. I was gratified to see the Senate Budget Committee included your language in its Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2005.

AMGA is an association that represents medical groups, including some of the nation's largest, most prestigious integrated health care delivery systems with a total of approximately 60,000 physicians. AMGA's mission is to shape the health care environment by advancing high quality, cost-effective, patient-centered, and physician-directed health care. The members of AMGA deliver health care to more than 50 million patients in 42 states, including 15 million capitated lives. The average AMGA member group has 272 physicians and 13 satellite locations.

Your leadership on this critical issue will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries are able to access the high quality health care they need and will promote long-term stability in the Medicare payment system.

Again, thank you for your efforts on this critical issue. If I can provide you with any assistance on this issue, please feel free to call me or Chet Speed of my staff, at 703 838-0033 ext. 364.

Sincerely,

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

Donald W. Fisher, Ph.D  
President and CEO