



Date

The Honorable [Member of Congress]
[Address]
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear [Your Member of Congress]:

I am the TITLE of The XYZ Clinic in City, State. XYZ , [medical group] employs [# of physicians] and [#of employees], and cares for [# of patients] of which [#] are Medicare beneficiaries. The XYZ Clinic offers a host of medical services in X number of satellite offices, (any other information about your group could be added here).

On behalf of the XYZ Clinic, I urge you to support the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act of 2009 (H.R. 3961). This Act provides a solution to the flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula, avoids future payment cuts, and secures access to health care services for Medicare beneficiaries.

Every year since 2002 doctors have faced cuts to reimbursement from Medicare as a consequence of the SGR. On several occasions Congress has intervened with a last minute temporary “fix”. As you know, physicians face a 21 percent reduction in payment on January 1, 2010. The time has come for a permanent solution to the uncertainties and burdens produced by the SGR, passage of H.R. 3961.

The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act provides for a modest, cost-based increase to physician payments in its first year of implementation, followed by annual updates based upon a more realistic, revised formula. The Act averts the 21 percent cut slated for next year and eliminates future cuts of this sort permanently. It also produces stability and predictability in the Medicare payment system allowing doctors to budget and plan accordingly.

In addition to replacing the defective SGR formula, H.R. 3961 would provide a separate payment mechanism or “bucket” for accountable care organizations (ACOs). We strongly support ACOs and believe that this “bucket” would be another positive step in altering the Medicare reimbursement system to paying for value (quality and efficiency) rather than for volume of services. Finally, H.R. 3961 would also help assure patient access to care by keeping participating physicians in the Medicare program.

Again, I urge you to vote yes on H.R. 3961. Thank you very much for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at _____.

Sincerely yours,



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