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March 25, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Representative Burgess, Chairman Ryan, Ranking Member Levin, Chairman Upton, and Ranking Member Pallone,

On behalf of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, a medical specialty society representing nearly 10,000 ophthalmologists in the United States and abroad who share a particular interest in cataract and refractive surgical care, I am pleased to issue our support for H.R. 2, the Medicare and CHIP Authorization Act of 2015. Thank you for your leadership to repeal the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and replace it with a system that provides fair and equitable reimbursement and ensures continued access to specialty care.

Specifically, we are pleased that H.R. 2 repeals the flawed SGR formula, provides a five-year period of stable updates, preserves fee-for-service as a continued option, consolidates the current quality programs and removes the penalties associated with the existing programs, implements a streamlined quality improvement program based on benchmarks, and allows for physician and specialty society inclusion in the development of new performance measures and payment systems. We have long advocated for these provisions and appreciate your willingness to include us and others in the medical community in the development process.

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

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

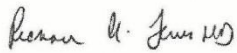
The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

In addition, we are pleased to see the inclusion of a provision to prevent the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) planned transition of all 10- and 90-day global codes to 0-day codes. We have consistently opposed this provision since it was included in the 2015 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule due to the additional administrative burden this would place on physician practices. Perhaps more importantly, the policy unfairly burdens the sickest patients who may require additional post-operative care and would have been required to pay co-pays for each additional visit instead of paying one co-pay for the entire service under the current system.

Thank you again for your bipartisan, bicameral leadership to repeal and replace the SGR once and for all. We are pleased to support this legislation and offer the resources of our organization to ensure its passage.

For additional information, please contact ASCRS Director of Government Relations, Nancey McCann at nmccann@ascrs.org.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Lewis, MD
ASCRS President