March 24, 2015

The Hon. John Boehner
Speaker
H-232, The Capitol

The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol

The Hon. Steve Scalise
Majority Whip
H-329, The Capitol

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader McCarthy, and Whip Scalise:

With physicians facing a 21.2% cut to Medicare reimbursements effective April 1, the GOP Doctors Caucus strongly supports H.R. 2, bipartisan legislation that would permanently repeal the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) and modernize how Medicare pays physicians.

Since 2002, cuts prescribed by the SGR have caused tremendous uncertainty for physicians and patients alike—while looming as a threat to seniors’ access to medical care. Congress must seize the opportunity to end this uncertainty, and we are encouraged by the progress that has been made by leadership and the committees in recent days.

In December 2013, the GOP Doctors Caucus laid out its principles for reforming the SGR, and we are pleased that this proposal meets our criteria. Specifically, this legislation will ensure a positive update for providers with a sufficient transition period to a new formula, maintains fee-for-service as a viable model, prevents direct physician competition for fixed resources, and establishes physician-led quality metrics.

We are also pleased with the structural Medicare reforms included to help offset the cost of the bill. While broader reforms will ultimately be necessary to preserve Medicare for current beneficiaries and strengthen it for the next generation, this legislation includes a meaningful down payment on needed changes.

Thank you for your continued efforts on this issue. We look forward to supporting passage of a bill that will end SGR once and for all.

Sincerely,

Phil Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress

Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress

John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress
Dan Benishek, M.D.
Member of Congress

Charles Boustany, M.D.
Member of Congress

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress

Paul Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Joe Heck, D.O.
Member of Congress

Mike Simpson, D.M.D.
Member of Congress

Diane Black, R.N.
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers, R.N.
Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress