

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 17, 2012

Dear Conferee,

We write to request that between now and February 29, 2012, you and your fellow conferees to H.R. 3630, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Jobs Creation Act, will take the opportunity presented to you in the House passed bill to provide the seniors of our nation with the stability and peace of mind of knowing Medicare will be there for them in the future. Additionally, since the Department of Defense bases its physician reimbursements for TRICARE on Medicare reimbursement rates, you also have the opportunity to provide our nation's active duty, reserve and veteran service members the health care certainty they deserve. Specifically, we request the conferees adopt the House passed changes to the sustainable growth rate (SGR), as well as the offsets required to keep the measure deficit neutral.

As members of Florida's Congressional delegation, we have the unique position of representing almost 3.4 million Medicare beneficiaries across the state. These men and women have paid into the system throughout their lives, and are now counting on Congress to ensure they continue to have access to the physicians they have come to trust and rely on for medical care. As you know, the SGR, which since 2002 has calculated a decrease in physician payments, has left many doctors extremely wary of future Medicare reimbursements. Importantly, these cuts are one of the reasons one in eight doctors have stopped seeing new Medicare patients.

H.R. 3630, as passed by the House of Representatives, includes a two year extension of the current reimbursement rates to delay a 27.4% physician reimbursement cut, as well as a 1% increase in reimbursement levels each year to encourage physicians to continue seeing Medicare patients. Additionally, this legislation requires the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, the Government Accountability Office, and the Department of Health and Human Services to submit reports regarding a permanent replacement to the SGR formula.

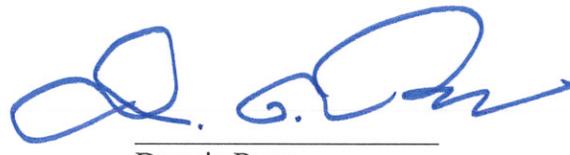
While a long-term solution to this recurring problem must be found, we understand the Conference Committee is unlikely to find a permanent solution in the next few weeks. Therefore,

as discussions on this legislation continue, we strongly encourage you to support the House's position of a two-year fix to the reimbursement rates. Giving our doctors and seniors this certainty is not only necessary, it is the right thing to do. The House also took responsible measures to ensure this extension will not add to our nation's annual deficit. One such provision, the recapture of subsidies provided under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act from individuals who should not have received them, will save almost one-third of the cost of the SGR extension alone.

As you and your fellow conferees begin discussions on H.R. 3630, we would once again encourage you to accept the House passed two year SGR fix, as well as House passed offsets, and include them in the final product. Your bipartisan support for strengthening Medicare would show the nation's seniors, active duty military, veterans and physicians that we support them now and will continue to do so in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns. We look forward to seeing a conferenced H.R. 3630 that includes these provisions.

Sincerely,

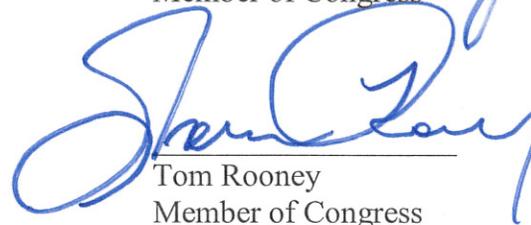

Sandy Adams
Member of Congress

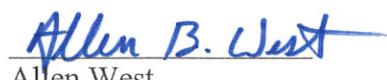

Dennis Ross
Member of Congress

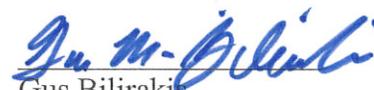

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress


Bill Posey
Member of Congress


Rich Nugent
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Tom Rooney
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Allen West
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Gus Bilirakis
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Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
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