



QUALITY IS OUR IMAGE

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March 24, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
H-232, United States Capitol  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
H-204, United States Capitol  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The American College of Radiology (ACR), a professional organization representing more than 35,000 radiologists, interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and medical physicists, would like to express strong support for H.R. 2, the Medicare and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MARCA). We sincerely appreciate House Republicans and Democrats coming together in a bipartisan fashion to address the current system of Medicare reimbursement. Thanks to your efforts, all physicians, including radiologists, have moved one step closer to eliminating the annual budgetary uncertainties that characterizes the antiquated Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula.

ACR is particularly appreciative that the legislation provides physicians with four and half years of stable budgetary updates. In addition, the College is very supportive of the bill's efforts to harmonize the existing web of quality assurance initiatives, including the Electronic Health Record Meaningful Use program, Value-Based Modifier, Physician Quality Reporting System, along with new clinical practice improvement activities, into one large program entitled the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). The College applauds the attempt to institute a modified fee-for-service system that allows physicians to earn incentive payments should they perform well on these streamlined quality metrics and clinical improvement activities. ACR also supports how H.R. 2 makes a sustained commitment to promoting and incentivizing physicians to move to alternative payment models (APMs). The annual five percent bonus payments provided to physicians who participate in APMs between 2019 and 2024 should help encourage this necessary migration.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cynthia Moran, Executive Vice President, Government Relations, Economics, and Health Policy, American College of Radiology, either via phone, 202-223-1670, or email, [cmoran@acr.org](mailto:cmoran@acr.org). We look forward to working with all of you in the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

Bibb Allen, MD, FACR  
Chair, Board of Chancellors  
American College of Radiology

William T. Thorwarth, Jr., MD, FACR  
Chief Executive Office  
American College of Radiology

Cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Steve Scalise, Majority Whip, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee  
The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee

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American College of Radiology

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The Honorable Kevin Brady, Chairman, House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health  
The Honorable Joe Pitts, Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health  
The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD  
The Honorable Charles Boustany, MD

The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Minority Whip, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Sander Levin, Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
The Honorable Jim McDermott, Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health  
The Honorable Gene Green, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Harry Reid, Minority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee