



March 25, 2015

The Honorable Michael Fitzpatrick  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representative Fitzpatrick :

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Urban Hospitals to convey our support for H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act.

This bill successfully addresses the long-running challenge posed by the Medicare sustainable growth rate formula (SGR). While it is unfortunate that a number of Medicare payments to hospitals will be reduced to pay for the elimination of the SGR formula, we appreciate that those cuts were modest in comparison to earlier proposals and that hospitals and physicians will no longer face the annual uncertainty of physician payment cuts that threatened to jeopardize access to care for millions of our nation's seniors.

In addition, through this bill physicians may now join hospitals in the movement toward aligning Medicare payments with quality of care. This, we believe, is a positive step, and we look forward to working with you to address some of the challenges such an approach poses in the near future.

Finally, we appreciate the bill's extension of the delay of Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payment cuts (Medicaid DSH) for another year and the moratorium it proposes for implementation of Medicare's two-midnight rule. These proposals are especially welcome by the nation's non-profit urban safety-net hospitals.

For these and other reasons we encourage you to support H.R. 2 when it comes to the floor of the House for a vote later this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Kugler', is written over a faint circular stamp.

Ellen Kugler, Esq.  
Executive Director

