



March 23, 2015

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Dr. Burgess:

The Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) writes to express our support for the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2015 (H.R. 1470/S. 810), which has been incorporated into H.R. 2 the Medicare and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA). Repealing the SGR is critically important and we applaud this significant step forward to achieving this goal.

Congress has been debating the shortcomings of the SGR for more than a decade, and now a viable solution to this failed policy is here. It is time to take action and stop the cycle of short-term patches that merely address the immediate crises posed by annual physician payment cuts. The SGR is fiscally irresponsible and has impeded innovation in Medicare for too long.

This bicameral, bipartisan legislation provides positive payment updates, offers options for physicians to participate in alternative payment models and starts Medicare down a path toward harmonizing current disjointed and overlapping federal quality reporting programs. To ensure harmonization is achieved and duplication and excessive administrative burdens are minimized, we recommend adding a provision requiring an annual implementation report to Congress. Aggressive congressional oversight of the regulatory framework established by this legislation will be critical to enabling physicians in group practice to continue providing high quality, cost-effective care to Medicare beneficiaries.

MGMA congratulates Congress on its efforts and looks forward to continuing to work with you to make SGR repeal a reality this year. Should you have any questions, please contact MGMA Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Anders Gilberg at agilberg@mgma.org or 202.293.3450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Halee Fischer-Wright".

Halee Fischer-Wright, MD, MMM, FAAP
President and CEO

CC: Speaker John Boehner

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