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*The mission of the American College of  
Cardiology and the American College  
of Cardiology Foundation is to transform  
cardiovascular care and improve heart health.*

March 24, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

I am pleased to inform you of the American College of Cardiology's (ACC) strong support for H.R. 1470, the *SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2015*. This legislation is a result of the culmination of more than a decade's worth of work by members of Congress, as well as the provider and beneficiary communities, to repeal the sustainable growth rate (SGR), the flawed Medicare physician payment formula.

The ACC is a 49,000-member medical society that is the professional home for the entire cardiovascular care team. The mission of the College is to transform cardiovascular care and to improve heart health. The ACC leads in the formation of health policy, standards and guidelines. The College operates national registries to measure and improve care, provides professional medical education, disseminates cardiovascular research and bestows credentials upon cardiovascular specialists who meet stringent qualifications. The ACC also produces the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, ranked number one among cardiovascular journals worldwide for its scientific impact.

The ACC supports H.R. 1470 because of its increased focus on improving patient outcomes. This legislation is a significant improvement over current law and represents close collaboration between the College and congressional leaders, as well as other physician groups and stakeholders, to move away from volume-based care and toward quality and value-based care. The College supports the alignment of existing Medicare quality programs to allow clinicians to focus on improving patient care. We also commend congressional leaders for recognizing the investments that clinicians must make to transform the delivery of care by incentivizing participation in alternative payment models.

The College also supports the extension of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This valuable program provides access to care for many children who have cardiovascular conditions such as those suffering from congenital heart disease.

This legislation truly is an example of bipartisanship at its finest. The ACC applauds you for coming together, against many odds, to write this legislation. We encourage you to bring H.R. 1470 to the floor before March 31, and we encourage members of Congress to vote in favor of it. The College stands ready to continue our work with Congress to move this legislation forward and enact it into law.

Sincerely,

Kim Allan Williams, Sr., MD, FACC, FAHA, FASNC  
President

Cc: Members of Congress