



March 24, 2015

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

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

Dear Speaker Boehner and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

I write to share the strong support of the National Retail Federation (NRF) for H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. **Please note that NRF will consider votes on H.R. 2 and related procedural motions as Opportunity Index Votes for our annual voting scorecard.**

NRF is the world's largest retail trade association, representing discount and department stores, home goods and specialty stores, Main Street merchants, grocers, wholesalers, chain restaurants and Internet retailers from the United States and more than 45 countries. Retail is the nation's largest private sector employer, supporting one in four U.S. jobs – 42 million working Americans. Contributing \$2.6 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation's economy.

The Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula passed into law in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to help control physician spending in Medicare. Laudable in its original intent, the SGR has been completely flawed in its execution. Congress has intervened countless times – often under dire time and political pressure – to prevent the SGR from going into full effect. We note that since 2003, Congress has spent nearly \$170 billion in short term patches. The most recent patch expires at the end of this month.

We strongly support your bipartisan initiative. You have brought sorely needed leadership and bipartisan agreement to the needlessly partisan struggles over health care. We hope this also heralds necessary progress on accommodating the Affordable Care Act to the real world. We also note and commend the two year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in the SGR package.

For all of these reasons, NRF strongly supports H.R. 2. We therefore ask for your vote in favor of H.R. 2 when it reaches the House floor.

Sincerely,

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations