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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:

The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) supports and urges swift passage of H.R. 2, the “Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act” before the current “patch” that has suspended deep cuts to Medicare physician payments expires on March 31.

Since its founding in 1941, ASGE has been dedicated to advancing patient care and digestive health by promoting excellence and innovation in gastrointestinal endoscopy. ASGE, with more than 13,000 members worldwide, fosters endoscopic research, promotes the highest standards for endoscopic training and practice, and is the foremost resource for endoscopic education.

H.R. 2 offers physician payment predictability for the first time in more than 12 years, and with predictability an opportunity for physicians to define and participate in new payment models that place value on the delivery of high quality patient care. Payment stability and adequacy from both public and private payers alike are critical if physician practices are to make necessary investments in health information technology, staffing and data collection systems so value-driven payment models can emerge and evolve.

ASGE commends you for your leadership in bringing to the House floor an SGR repeal and payment reform bill that was developed with great input from the physician community. It is our hope this same level of bipartisanship and physician stakeholder collaboration will occur in the future when it comes to addressing other important matters that face providers, patients and our health care system broadly.

On this eve of an historic vote to repeal the SGR, ASGE is calling upon your colleagues to stand with you in this demonstration of bipartisanship.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Schmitt, MD, MHS, FASGE
 President
 American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy