

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2008

Senator Max Baucus
Chairman, Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6200

Senator Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6200

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write to you today on an issue of great importance to our nation's physicians and the seniors they care for. Recent press reports indicate that you are close to a bipartisan compromise on Medicare physician reimbursement that would avert the scheduled 10.6 percent cut to physicians set to go into effect on July 1, 2008, without cutting private fee-for-service (PFFS) plans under Medicare Advantage. We urge you to produce a bipartisan bill that protects seniors that depend on Medicare Advantage and report such a bill to the Senate floor for quick consideration.

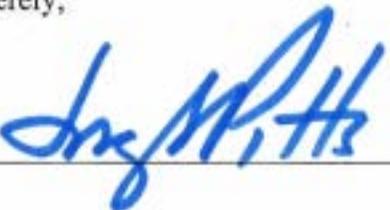
Unfortunately, the House-passed bill, H.R. 6331, cuts \$13.6 billion from Medicare Advantage over the next five years and nearly \$50 billion over 10 years. As a result of this legislation, current PFFS plans could be taken away from seniors in 41 states, and according to CBO more than 2 million seniors will lose their PFFS plans by 2013. Almost 50 percent of Medicare Advantage enrollees have incomes less than \$20,000, and Medicare Advantage plans are the most popular option for beneficiaries with incomes between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

All of us are committed to ensuring that our physicians can continue to practice across the country and provide the best care to our seniors. Without adequate reimbursement and certainty about the reimbursements they are going to receive, we fear that many doctors will simply be unable to see new Medicare patients. We cannot allow these cuts to take effect. Our seniors deserve better, and our physicians deserve better.

We understand that Sen. Majority Leader Harry Reid may be inclined to bring up the House bill, H.R. 6331, as early as Thursday, June 26, due to the wide margin of passage; but we urge you to keep working on a compromise bill that does not include cuts to Medicare Advantage private fee-for-service plans.

Thank you for your continued attention to this important issue, and we look forward to your bill.

Sincerely,





John Bonner ———— W.M. TX. 2

J. Mearns ———— Steve King

Myr. Baker ———— John Boozma

Robert Adair ———— Paul Ryan

Ch. Bonbr, Jr. ———— John Linder

B. Madant ———— Harold Ryan

Ralph M. Hall ———— Ed Whitfield

John T. Doolittle ———— J. S. TX. 15

P. Delis ———— Dan Ingles

Kyle TX-11

Jim Lamm WI-5

Paul Smith SC-3

Kevin Bray TX-8

John Carter TX-31

Michael McLeod TX-10

Harold Hallgren TX-19

Doug Lamborn CO-5

Frank Starks

Michelle Bachmann

William

Sam Johnson

John Klein MN-2

Bill Sali

Adrian Smith NE-3

Royce

Patent Thibault NC-10

W. Todd Allen ^{MO-2}

John Cellura

Kevin Newman
TK-19

John Rodgers AZ-3

Lee Ann ^{MS-05}

Steve Seabrook LA-1

Dina D'Amico GA-3

Joe Posner IL-6

Jin Joda OH-4

Myron

Tom Ranta

David Kelly

Raymond Alexander

Jim Cole

Bill Shuster

Jane Cunningham

Anders Benson

Michelle D'Agostino

Jim Thomsen

John Hensarling

Ron Paul

George Radford

Steve Joyce

Paul Brown

John Campbell

Bob

Tom Lewis

John Manning

Ed Royce

**Signatories to Letter to Senators Max Baucus and Chuck Grassley in Support of a
Doctor Fix Bill That Does Not Cut Medicare Advantage**

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Joe Barton

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Ted Poe

Jim McCrery

Steve King

Pete Sessions

John Boozman

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John Linder

Kenny Marchant

Harold Roger

Ralph Hall

Ed Whitfield

John Doolittle

John Shimkus

Rodney Frehlingheysen

Dan Lungren

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Gresham Barrett

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John Carter

Michael McCaul

Marsha Blackburn

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Trent Franks

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Mike Pence

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