



January 13, 2012

SAN  
FRANCISCO  
MEDICAL  
SOCIETY

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
235 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pelosi:

On behalf of the San Francisco Medical Society and its over 1,000 members, I want to thank you for your steadfast support over the years for a permanent fix to the Medicare SGR problem. We know you are aware that the longer we postpone a permanent fix for the SGRs the more expensive the correction becomes. We now urge you to reaffirm this commitment when the House meets this month to work out a budget deal.

With each short-term patch, the scheduled cuts get steeper and the cost of payment reform grows. In 2005, the formula could have been repealed for less than \$50 billion over ten years. Today, the ten year cost is nearly \$300 billion. In five years, the combined cost of short-term patches and accumulated SGR debt will reach \$600 billion.

It is irrational to invest more taxpayer money to support a policy that is a proven failure. A two-year patch will cost \$39 billion and increase the cost of future efforts to repeal the SGR by an additional \$56 billion and increase the projected cut in 2014 to 36%. Furthermore, if allowed to continue, the SGR will require rapidly escalating amounts of politically challenging "pay-fors" in the future to prevent additional cuts.

On behalf of San Francisco physicians and their Medicare patients, we appreciate your steadfast work in finding a permanent solution to this problem.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Curran, MD  
President

CC: James T. Hay, MD, President, California Medical Association  
Dustin Corcoran, Chief Executive Officer, California Medical Association  
Elizabeth McNeil, Vice President, California Medical Association  
California Democratic Delegation to the House

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*An advocate for  
Physicians  
and  
their Patients*