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1100 E Woodfield Road
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LUGPA.org



March 25, 2015

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

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

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of LUGPA, a professional association representing more than 20 percent of our nation's urologists, I'm writing to voice our strong support for historic bipartisan legislation (H.R. 2) to permanently repeal and replace the deeply flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula.

Our member groups provide comprehensive, integrated urological care in a community setting, enhancing access to care – by using evidence based best practices, data collection and benchmarking we are also able to improve outcomes and reduce costs. Indeed, research has shown that groups such as ours are the highest quality, most effective site-of-service in both fee-for-service and alternate payment methodologies. Under the present payment system we are faced with the continual uncertainty of whether Medicare will fulfill its obligations to our nation's seniors and fund their health care.

The SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2015 would provide the needed assurance that would allow us to invest in staff, new technologies and focus on delivering state-of-the-art care to our patients. It would also encourage our health care system to move away from traditional fee-for-service to alternative payment models that focus on prevention and coordinated care; our organization welcomes this change.

Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi, thank you for your leadership on this historic bipartisan legislation that will dramatically improve the Medicare program, improving access to and enhancing quality of health care for our nation's seniors. We strongly support your efforts to strengthen Medicare and help our seniors by repealing and replacing the SGR.

Sincerely,

Gary Kirsh, MD
President, LUGPA