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MEDICAL SOCIETY®

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The Honorable «Name»
«WashingtonAdd»

Dear «Last»:

As you know, H. R. 3962 was not uniformly supported by individual physicians. However I think that many of us agree with the assessment of the American Medical Association that it does represent a clear step toward health system reform.

When you return to session the week of November 16th, I strongly urge that you support **H.R. 3961**, the "Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act" when it is brought up for a vote in the House.

For too many years physicians have faced an annual crisis of deep Medicare fee cuts because action has not yet been taken to repeal the sustainable growth rate (SGR) Medicare physician payment formula. H.R. 3961 will replace that unworkable Medicare physician payment system with a payment program that will help to assure care to both seniors and the military families covered by TRICARE. Passage of H.R. 3961 is an essential element of health system reform. It is time to permanently scrap the SGR payment formula, avoid the annual crisis that distract all of us from the important issues at hand and take this positive action for health system reform.

Here are some key facts about SGR in Pennsylvania for you to consider:

- SGR repeal would prevent a loss of \$560 million in 2010 for the care of the elderly and disabled patients in PA
- On average, legislation to repeal the SGR would prevent cuts of \$15,000 to each PA physician in 2010
- 142,006 employees, 2,005,670 Medicare patients and 161,653 TRICARE patients in PA will be helped by the legislation that averts 2010 cuts
- PA at 16%, has an above average proportion of Medicare patients

Increasing access is at the core of H.R. 3961 so I urge you to vote for the bill and help to ensure health care access for our seniors and military families.

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Sincerely,

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