The Honorable John A. Boehner Speaker U.S. House of Representatives H-232 U.S. Capitol Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives H-204 U.S. Capitol Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Representative Pelosi:

The undersigned state medical societies and national specialty organizations congratulate House and Senate negotiators on the introduction of H.R. 4015/ S. 2000, the *SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014*. Now, Congress is closer than it has ever been to enacting fiscally-prudent legislation that would repeal Medicare's fatally flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula. It is critically important to build on this work and maintain the momentum.

Congress has been debating the shortcomings of the SGR policy for more than a decade, and now a solution to this failed policy is finally at hand. It is time to take action, and to stop the cycle of short-term patches that merely address the immediate crisis posed by whatever cut is currently pending. Further reliance on this mechanism to preserve patient access to care is fiscally irresponsible and has impeded innovation in delivering health care services for far too long.

To date, Congress has spent \$153.7 billion over 12 years on SGR patches, far more than the cost of permanently reforming the Medicare physician payment system. And, because of the cumulative nature of the formula, the cost of these short-term remedies rises each year.

The legislation introduced last week is the product of more than a year of bipartisan, bicameral work to build a stronger Medicare program. Short-term remedies are no longer acceptable. Now is the time to pass a long-term solution to the fatally flawed SGR and establish a transition to a more stable Medicare physician payment policy to better serve America's senior citizens.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Disability Evaluating Physicians
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Home Care Medicine
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Neurology

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> American Academy of Ophthalmology American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Academy of Sleep Medicine

American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

American College of Cardiology

American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Osteopathic Family physicians

American College of Osteopathic Internists

American College of Osteopathic Surgeons

American College of Physicians

American College of Radiation Oncology

American College of Radiology

American College of Rheumatology

American College of Surgeons

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Gastroenterological Association

American Medical Directors Association – Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine

American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics

American Osteopathic Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Society for Clinical Pathology

American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

American Society for Radiation Oncology

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

American Society of Clinical Oncology

American Society of Cytopathology

American Society of Dermatopathology

American Society of Echocardiography

American Society of Hematology

American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians

American Society of Nephrology

American Society of Nuclear Cardiology

American Society of Retina Specialists

American Thoracic Society

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College of American Pathologists
International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery
Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
Medical Group Management Association
National Association of Medical Examiners
National Association of Spine Specialists
Renal Physicians Association
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Interventional Radiology
The Endocrine Society
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Medical Association of the State of Alabama Alaska State Medical Association Arizona Medical Association **Arkansas Medical Society** California Medical Association Colorado Medical Society Medical Society of Delaware Medical Society of the District of Columbia Hawaii Medical Association Idaho Medical Association Illinois State Medical Society Indiana State Medical Association Iowa Medical Society Kansas Medical Society Kentucky Medical Association Louisiana State Medical Society Maine Medical Association MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society Massachusetts Medical Society Michigan State Medical Society Minnesota Medical Association Mississippi State Medical Association Missouri State Medical Association Montana Medical Association Nebraska Medical Association Nevada State Medical Association New Hampshire Medical Society Medical Society of New Jersey New Mexico Medical Society

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> North Carolina Medical Society North Dakota Medical Association Ohio State Medical Association Oklahoma State Medical Association Oregon Medical Association Pennsylvania Medical Society Rhode Island Medical Society South Carolina Medical Association South Dakota State Medical Association Tennessee Medical Association Texas Medical Association Utah Medical Association Vermont Medical Society Medical Society of Virginia Washington State Medical Association West Virginia State Medical Association Wisconsin Medical Society Wyoming Medical Society

cc: U.S. House of Representatives