



Wisconsin Medical Society

Your Doctor. Your Health.

April 8, 2010

Dear Wisconsin Members of Congress:

On behalf of the more than 12,000 members of the Wisconsin Medical Society (Society), we urge that you lead efforts in Congress to stop dramatic harm from befalling our Medicare system. If Congress fails to fix the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula, physicians will face potentially insurmountable hurdles in providing care to seniors, people with disabilities and military families depending on Medicare for their health needs.

Congress recently passed legislation with the goal of providing better health care access for most Americans. However, by not fixing the SGR failure, access is put at risk. We ask Congress to continue its work and fix the basic foundation of Medicare.

Every year for a decade, physicians and other providers have faced steep cuts that jeopardize the ability to care for patients. You and your colleagues have recognized this glaring problem, but have not yet been willing to address it beyond a “kick the can” approach. This year alone, Congress passed four temporary fixes – four kicks of the can – instead of crafting a needed, thoughtful and permanent solution. Your constituents – physicians AND patients – need more aggressive action. The SGR was first created by the Congress; Congress can acknowledge the idea’s failure and wipe the slate clean.

On behalf of our patients and ourselves, we implore that you fix Medicare now. Many of the provisions of the new health reforms are predicated on Medicare. You cannot build a new health care system on top of the crumbling Medicare foundation. You must stabilize Medicare today and ensure a firm foundation for future generations of patients.

It’s time for a permanent Medicare fix.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Jaeger, MD
President
Wisconsin Medical Society