



Wisconsin Medical Society
Your Doctor. Your Health.



SSM Health Care of Wisconsin



MINISTRY HEALTH CARE



Luther Midelfort

Mayo Health System



Monroe Clinic



University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
uwhealth.org



Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare



February 18, 2010

To Members of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation:

We, the undersigned leaders and representatives of many Wisconsin hospital and physician organizations, are writing to stress the urgency of fixing the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula before March 1. We are united in *support* and *expectation* that Congress act before these devastating physician payment cuts take effect. We are looking to you to advance this issue as an essential priority with your colleagues and with legislative leadership.

Our organizations have long advocated for a permanent solution to the SGR formula. We had been hopeful this issue would be permanently addressed via health reform legislation. This has not happened and, once again as in past years, physicians are facing uncertainty and the prospects of a catastrophic financial penalty for serving Medicare patients. This is ironic given the fact that Wisconsin physicians, unlike peers in some other states, have an enviable track record in providing open access to Medicare patients despite a long flawed payment formula that pays them far less than colleagues in much of the nation.

Wisconsin doctors and hospitals provide nationally recognized high quality, cost-efficient care. Essentially, we have proven we know how to "do more with less." However, our caregivers cannot sustain a 21 percent cut. Adequate physician payments are critical to ensuring that Wisconsin providers continue providing access to important health care services for all Medicare beneficiaries.

We stand united in urging a permanent solution for the SGR. At a minimum, we expect a "fix" that takes us through the current calendar year.

We look forward to your leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,

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