

***SAMPLE FAX: To your Members of Congress and your US Senators***

I am a Texas physician who is very concerned about the pending 10.6-percent cut in Medicare payments come June 30. Over the next decade, the cut could be as deep as 40 percent. Our elderly patients, Texans with disabilities, and our practices just can't withstand such a cut.

You must act by June 30 to stop physicians' Medicare payment cuts and to enact payment increases that cover our costs of caring for patients. After five months of no solution, Congress needs to act. Please support S. 3101 by Sen. Max Baucus.

If you do not take action to stop the Medicare cuts to physician payments in June, senior citizens will have great difficulty finding physicians to provide their care. Right now, 60 percent of physicians say the cut would force them to limit the number of new Medicare patients they can treat.

Please support S. 3101, which stops today's drastic Medicare cuts, and with an 18-month fix, will help us find a long-term replacement for the sustainable growth rate (SGR) financing formula. Senator Cornyn has filed legislation that would eliminate the SGR, and Senator Hutchison has signed on to this legislation.

- **Fixing the Flawed Payment Formula:** We need a rational Medicare physician payment system that automatically keeps up with the cost of running a practice and is backed by a stable funding source.
- **Tearing Down the Silos:** Hospitals, nursing homes, Medicare HMOs, or any other Medicare providers should not receive automatic fee updates until the physician payment system is addressed for the benefit of our Medicare patients.
- **Putting Patients Before Insurance Companies:** Medicare Advantage plans should NOT come ahead of patient care. Medicare Advantage insurance plans and Medicare HMOs are receiving double-digit, multimillion-dollar bonuses for simply brokering existing medical services. These critical health care dollars should be used for health care, not health insurance profits.

Act today. Medicare patients need your help today and future generations deserve it tomorrow.

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