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Date: March 7, 2015

Dear Members of Congress,

The California Neurology Society and a plethora of national medical associations strongly urge you to repeal the failed Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula before the expiration of current payment patch. During the 113th Congress, the three committees of jurisdiction produced a bipartisan, bicameral SGR replacement policy with unanimous support. This accomplishment was unprecedented in the long history of efforts to eliminate the SGR. Our physician members were deeply disappointed that enactment of these policies was not achieved before the 113th Congress adjourned. We urge you, therefore, to build upon the considerable efforts of the previous Congress and enact legislation that is consistent with those broadly supported policies.

Last year's efforts to reform the Medicare physician payment system far exceeded previous attempts to repeal the flawed SGR formula. Through months of hard work, a policy was developed that won not only bipartisan congressional support but also widespread support from organized medicine. That proposal would not only eliminate the dysfunctional SGR formula, but also create new pathways for physicians to participate in alternative payment and health care delivery models that emphasize value over volume and have the demonstrated potential of reducing long-term spending growth across the Medicare program. These policies represent the most significant structural reforms to the Medicare program in many years and replicate many of the opportunities for maximizing quality and reducing costs that are being successfully implemented in the private sector.

It is our fervent hope that the bipartisan, bicameral policies developed by the previous Congress will be advanced and, under your leadership, enacted into law. We urge you and all members of the House and Senate to take the necessary steps to achieve this long standing goal.

Sincerely,

George Sarka MD, DrPH, FACP, FACR, FACPM, President of the California Neurology Society

Eric F. Perkins MD, FAAN, Vice President of the California Neurology Society

Robyn G. Young, MD, FACP, Immediate Past President of the California Neurology Society

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