

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
133 Senate Hart Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow,

On behalf of the signed organizations, representing thousands of providers who bill Medicare Part B directly and ensure access to health services across the U.S, we are writing to express our support of S. 1776, the *Medicare Physician Fairness Act of 2009*. This legislation would permanently repeal the flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula that determines future payment rates in Medicare and TRICARE.

All providers who bill Medicare Part B directly are affected by the flawed SGR formula that has led to scheduled payment cuts over the last eight years, deferred annually by Congress to yield a cumulative payment cut of 21.5 percent next year and 40 percent or more over the next 10 years. While we appreciate that Congress has acted to avert the scheduled cuts over the last 7 years, we are concerned that another short-term fix will only cause deeper cuts in the future, undermine needed healthcare financing stability in a time of health reform and economic challenge, and hinder patient access to the care they deserve and we provide.

We represent a cadre of health care providers that ensures Medicare and TRICARE patients have access to the services they need. Scheduled cuts are unsustainable and will make it difficult for practices to continue investment in HIT and quality initiatives, while accepting new Medicare patients and preparing for the influx of baby boomers.

We appreciate your efforts to make S. 1776 a priority, and we look forward to working with Congress to ensure its enactment. If you have questions, or if we can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Academy of Doctors of Audiology
American Academy of Audiology
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Chiropractic Association
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American Nurses Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers

Cc: Members of the United States Senate