

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 28, 2013

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
US Senate
219 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus,

Thank you for your consistent leadership to maintain funding for Medicare physician payments each year.

We are writing today to request that the Committee adhere to regular order when considering any Medicare reform proposals or future legislation affecting Medicare physician payments. This request includes a scheduled legislative markup that would allow for adequate debate and votes on these issues that greatly impact our states and constituents, especially our most vulnerable populations and beneficiaries in rural areas.

We all understand the need to reduce the federal deficit and spending. For the past several years, the Senate has attempted to fix the SGR with last minute packages which have not only caused major market disruptions but have also affected access for many Medicare beneficiaries. More importantly, these cuts do not lead to substantial changes in the fiscal path of our nation or the Medicare program. Our federal health care entitlements are on an unsustainable fiscal path and risk diverting funding away from other critical government functions.

We strongly support a robust debate on entitlement reforms necessary to preserve these important programs for future generations. However, we believe specific reforms should be developed and implemented through a transparent process with time for adequate debate by Congress.

The Medicare trustees say, absent reform, Medicare will be insolvent in 2026, if not sooner. This is something we must all work together to avoid.

America and our constituents deserve an active debate on changes which will impact their lives. Again, thank you for continued efforts on Medicare solutions. We look forward to continued work with you on this highly important issue.

Sincerely,





Michael B. Enji

John Stone

Jimmy Pitt

John Corry

Bob

Pat Rooney