



November 15, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-231
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Speaker and Leaders Boehner, Reid, and McConnell:

As you return to Congress to complete important business on behalf of our nation, we urge you to take action before November 30 to prevent a 23 percent cut to Medicare's payments to physicians and help ensure that seniors who've worked their whole lives to earn the right to Medicare will be able to keep seeing the doctors they count on. If you fail to address this problem now, the cut will go up to 25 percent by January 1st. Our members have told us – regardless of their political affiliation – that they want Congress to come together to enact this much needed legislation to give seniors the peace of mind that they will be able to find a physician when they need one.

According to a recent AARP poll, over 80 percent of our members are concerned that a Medicare pay cut will threaten access to their doctors. Even higher percentages (86 percent) of younger AARP members – those not yet eligible for Medicare – worry that the cut will drive doctors out of the Medicare program.

With Boomers starting to retire, it's more important than ever that Congress take action to keep doctors in the Medicare program. Throughout 2010, Congress enacted a series of short-term patches to address the problem. However, these band-aid solutions have led seniors to feel anxious that they will not be able to find a physician when they need it most. On behalf of millions of AARP members, we are calling on you to act to protect seniors' access to their physicians by enacting the longest term extension possible during this remaining session of Congress. Our members have earned their Medicare and the security of knowing they can keep seeing the doctors they count on.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Nora Super of our Government Relations staff at 202-434-3770.

Sincerely,

A. Barry Rand