

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 26, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi,

We are writing to express our concerns over significant cuts to Medicare reimbursements for medical imaging in recent years. These cuts have had an adverse impact on our innovative job creators who research, develop, and manufacture medical imaging equipment.

The medical imaging industry produces life-saving technologies that support thousands of middle-class American jobs that have revolutionized the standard of care for patients around the world. Unfortunately, these repeated cuts to Medicare payments for imaging services are stifling this innovation and inhibiting job growth in the United States. Medicare reimbursements for medical imaging procedures have been cut seven separate times since 2006, with payments, in some cases, being reduced to less than half of their previous levels as cuts continue to be implemented through 2013.

We understand Congress needs to make hard decisions to bend the spending curve in the Medicare program, and we stand ready to work with you to enact solid fiscal reforms to preserve this program for future generations. However, as we work toward this goal, it is important to recognize that medical imaging is one of the slowest growing services in Medicare. In fact, the most recent MedPAC data shows advanced imaging growth at only one tenth of one percent. Clearly, the spending curve has already been bent for medical imaging services. Additional cuts in reimbursements for imaging procedures could jeopardize the ability of seniors to get an early diagnosis for life-threatening diseases like cancer and heart disease.

Moreover, previous imaging cuts have caused physicians to hold onto their outdated equipment for longer periods of time. With this decreased demand for their technology, manufacturers are forced to reduce employment and cut back investment in research and development. In these tough economic times, we should provide support to these innovators and avoid policies that will restrain their ability to create jobs and compete in our global economy.

As the House continues its important work to promote job growth, we urge you to carefully consider the impact of further cuts to Medicare reimbursements for medical imaging services. We look forward to working with you on preserving and protecting the Medicare program for future generations.

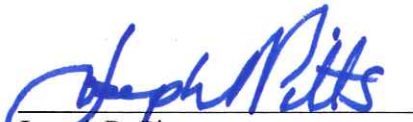
Sincerely,



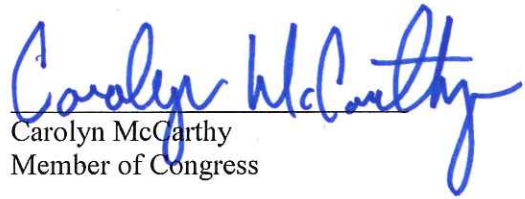
Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress



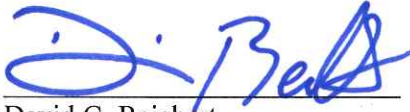
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



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Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Steven C. LaTourette
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