

## HEARING ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Chairman Herger Announces Hearing on Expiring Medicare Provider Payment Policies**

House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman Wally Herger (R-CA) today announced that the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing to examine certain expiring Medicare provider payment provisions. **The hearing will take place on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, in 1100 Longworth House Office Building, beginning at 2:00 P.M.**

In announcing the hearing, Chairman Herger stated, **“With a likely price tag of a one year extension totaling more than \$2.5 billion, the Subcommittee must ensure that taxpayers’ money will be spent wisely. As members of the Subcommittee on Health, we have an obligation to examine Medicare’s payment policies to determine whether they are sound and justified.”**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

There are a number of Medicare provider payment policies that expire on or before December 31, 2011. Many of these policies have been extended multiple times over several years, even if they were initially contemplated to be short-term or even one-time payment changes. The provisions touch many parts of the Medicare program. Often, Congress has simply changed the expiration date without actually closely examining whether the policy is still necessary or appropriate.

In light of the ongoing need to reduce the country’s deficit, it is important to examine these payment policies to determine if further extensions are warranted. This hearing will allow provider groups to explain the impact each of the payment policies has and offer suggestions for improvements.

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