

AOA Supports the Introduction of the “Medicare Physician Payment Innovation Act”

Statement attributable to Martin Levine, DO, President of the AOA

(Washington, DC) – The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and the more than 78,000 osteopathic physicians we represent, applauds the “Medicare Physician Payment Innovation Act of 2012,” legislation introduced today by Representatives Allyson Schwartz (D-PA-13) and Joe Heck, DO (R-NV-03). This legislation would ensure continued access to care for our nation’s Medicare beneficiaries and create a clear path toward comprehensive payment reform. This legislation moves away from the challenges of the past decade and toward a Medicare payment system that promotes the highest levels of access, quality, and efficiency. We applaud the bipartisan approach to addressing a long-standing problem in our health care system.

The “Medicare Physician Payment Innovation Act” fosters the creation, trial, evaluation, and implementation of innovative new payment and delivery models in Medicare. By permanently repealing the systemically flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula and providing stabilization of the current payment system through positive updates for all physicians, this legislation sets a prudent course toward comprehensive payment reform.

The AOA recognizes that health care is provided effectively in a variety of settings by dedicated physicians; however, a single payment model for all physician services is not appropriate. Instead, Medicare can use a variety of payment models that are acutely focused on the various types of care and settings in which care is provided to foster innovation and secure higher quality outcomes for beneficiaries, while being fiscally responsible to the program as a whole.