

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONGRESS STAVES OFF MEDICARE CUT THAT HURTS SENIORS;
ONE-YEAR ACTION NEEDED IN DECEMBER**

Statement attributable to: Cecil B. Wilson, M.D.
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“Today, Congress staved off a Medicare meltdown for seniors, but this short-term reprieve ends when a 25 percent Medicare cut to physicians begins January 1. While this short-term delay helps ensure that physicians can continue to care for seniors for the next month; congressional action early in December to stop the cut for one year will inject stability into the Medicare program and ensure that Medicare delivers on its promise of health coverage for America’s seniors. It is crucial that Congress act well before the January 1 deadline so there are no disruptions in care for seniors.

“The oldest baby boomers will ring in the New Year as the first of their generation to turn 65 and will begin relying on Medicare. Congress is responsible for ensuring that the baby boomers can see a doctor through Medicare by enacting long-term reform next year of the broken Medicare physician payment system. The AMA urges Congress to build on the bipartisan action that delayed this year’s cut and act in December to stop the cut for one year so that Congress has time to work on a long-term solution.”

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