

AOA Urges Congress to Act Meaningfully on Renewed Bipartisan Interest in Medicare Physician Payment Reform

Statement attributable to American Osteopathic Association President Norman E. Vinn, DO

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) appreciates the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees' joint release of a bicameral and bipartisan framework for legislation to permanently repeal the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula and reform the Medicare physician payment system. The osteopathic medical profession is hopeful that the plan released today will move Congress this year to a balanced, permanent solution that stabilizes Medicare physician payment and preserves the ability of physicians to provide high-quality care for Medicare patients.

The joint release marks an unprecedented level of movement in the decade-long effort to fix the problematic payment system. Temporary solutions to date have endangered access to quality care for Medicare patients and are no longer a financially viable option for Congress, Medicare, physicians or seniors. By building on H.R. 2810, which was approved unanimously by the House Energy & Commerce Committee earlier this year, as well as on previous reform proposals, this bicameral and bipartisan work continues the momentum. We were pleased to see the Energy & Commerce Committee leaders express their appreciation for this proposal.

The AOA has been a longtime and staunch advocate for a reformed Medicare physician payment system that replaces the current SGR formula with one that adequately values physician services, rewards physicians who strive to provide higher quality care, and promotes the development and expansion of innovative payment models as the path forward.

To support that effort, the AOA is providing a voice for patients and physicians on Medicare physician payment reform through its recently launched Every Patient Counts grassroots advocacy campaign. The campaign's [website](http://everypatientcounts.org/) (<http://everypatientcounts.org/>) provides educational materials for caregivers, patients, and physicians on the detrimental impact of the current SGR formula, and tools for these stakeholders to contact their lawmakers directly and give a voice to their experiences.

###

About the American Osteopathic Association

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) proudly represents its professional family of more than 104,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students; promotes public health; encourages scientific research; serves as the primary certifying body for DOs; is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools; and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org.

About the American Medical Association (AMA)

The AMA, headquartered in Chicago, is committed to enabling a better health care system for patients and physicians to improve the health of the nation. Through its broad reach and deep relationships, the AMA is initiating partnerships to advance results-focused endeavors that improve public health, improve medical education and improve physician practice sustainability and satisfaction. Visit ama-assn.org to learn more about the AMA.