



American College of
RADIATION ONCOLOGY
Integrating Science and Technology into Patient Care

5272 River Road | Suite 630 | Bethesda, MD 20816 | 301.718.6515 | Fax 301.656.0989 | Email info@acro.org

March 25, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Finance Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO), representing radiation oncologists in the socioeconomic and political arenas and with a membership of approximately 1,000, I write to express our support for the Medicare SGR Repeal and Beneficiary Access Improvement Act, S. 2110. This bill is similar to the bipartisan, bicameral SGR repeal bill recently developed by the committees on Senate Finance, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce.

Medicare payment stability and reform for radiation therapy is a core mission of ACRO. S. 2110 contains provisions consistent with this mission, including predictable payment updates to the conversion factor and a transition period to move to new “alternative payment models” (APMs) outside of the broken Medicare fee-for-service system. As you know, however, Medicare payments to providers under the Physician Fee Schedule are the product *both* of the conversion factor and the “relative value units” (RVUs) for a code. Unfortunately, over the last several years, radiation therapy RVUs have been subject to extreme payment volatility. It is for this reason that ACRO *also* supports legislation that would provide payment stability to radiation therapy RVUs in order to ensure overall stability in Medicare payments and the successful transition to a new payment model. We urge the inclusion of such provisions in the final SGR repeal package.


March 25, 2014

Page 2 of 2

We recognize that there continue to be differences between the House and Senate and Republicans and Democrats on how to address the budget impact of SGR repeal. Our support for S. 2110 is based on the merits of the bill and is not an expression by us of how the Senate and House should resolve overall differences relating to budget offsets. Such issues need to be resolved through direct Senate-House negotiations over a final bill that will pass both chambers and be signed by the president.

A Senate vote for S. 2110 could represent an important step forward to reaching a bipartisan agreement with the House of Representatives on legislation to provide payment stability and reform for radiation therapy providers and the cancer patients they serve. The Senate Finance, House Ways and Means, and House Energy and Commerce Committees have crafted a bipartisan solution to the SGR that has nearly universal support in Congress and in the medical profession and these policies have been incorporated into the *Medicare SGR Repeal and Beneficiary Access Improvement Act*. ACRO supports this legislation and calls for Congress to resolve remaining offset issues in bipartisan, bicameral negotiations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arno J. Mundt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Arno J. Mundt, M.D., FACRO
President
American College of Radiation Oncology
5272 River Road, Suite 630
Bethesda, Maryland 20816