

1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488
703 684 2782
703 684 7343 fax
www.apta.org

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NEXT Conference & Exposition

June 11-14, 2014
Charlotte, NC

March 19, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden:

On behalf of more than 88,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) writes to express support for the Medicare SGR Repeal and Beneficiary Access Improvement Act of 2014 (S. 2110). APTA commends your continued effort to address this issue and appreciates the opportunity that was given to engage with the Committee on recommendations and feedback. APTA supports your effort to repeal and reform the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula and is particularly pleased that repeal of the Medicare outpatient therapy cap is also included in this legislation. These two policies were created together in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, have moved together in annual extensions since then, and should be fixed together in any reform policy.

Inclusion of therapy cap repeal provides a welcome relief for therapy providers and the beneficiaries that have been affected by this annual policy extension for over 16 years. Timely access to therapy services should be a goal we all seek and this legislation is a positive step forward for physical therapy and patients that receive this service.

We have formally activated our grassroots network in support of Senate passage of S. 2110 and believe that moving toward a conference with the House on these critical issues is imperative. As such, APTA remains hopeful that the Committees will continue to build on their bipartisan work to provide resolution to these two long standing issues. As those negotiations continue, APTA looks forward to additional dialogue on issues relevant to the bill, such as APTA's desire to see physical therapists included in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) program and assurance of registry based reporting for the current outpatient therapy functional limitation reporting system.

Again, thank you for your continued work to find a sustainable solution to reform the current Medicare payment system. APTA stands ready to assist the Committees as this legislation moves forward. If the Committee has

questions or needs additional resources, please contact Mandy Frohlich,
Senior Director of Government Affairs at mandyfrohlich@apta.org or
703-706-8548.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Rockar Jr." in a cursive script.

Paul A. Rockar, Jr, PT, DPT, MS
President

PAR: mkf