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March 19, 2014

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20150

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the 15,000 members of the American Thoracic Society I urge you to complete the work Congress has started on repealing the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula.

As you know, for the past decade, the physician community has worked with Congressional leadership to develop policy to permanently repeal and replace the SGR. After much work and compromised, a bipartisan/bicameral solution has been achieved (S. 2110). The legislation is supported by both parties, both chambers and the physician community. We thank you for your efforts in crafting this important legislation.

However, we are greatly concerned that Congress appears to be slipping into its partisan bad habits and is now using the SGR bill as a way to continue to score political points. We strongly urge Congress to return to the bipartisan spirit that achieved a compromise policy in S. 2110 and pass this important legislation.

Please demonstrate to physicians, Medicare beneficiaries and the American public that Congress is still capable of thoughtful leadership and compromise.

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Finn MD
President
American Thoracic Society