

BOB ETHERIDGE
2ND DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA



1533 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4531

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DISTRICT OFFICES:
333 FAYETTEVILLE STREET, SUITE 505
RALEIGH, NC 27601
(919) 829-9122
1 (888) 262-6202

P.O. BOX 1059
609 NORTH 1ST STREET
LILLINGTON, NC 27546
(910) 814-0335
1 (866) 384-3743

www.house.gov/etheridge

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2010

Mr. Robert W. Seligson
Executive Vice President and CEO
North Carolina Medical Society
PO Box 27167
222 N. Person St.
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Dear Mr. Seligson:

Thank you for contacting me regarding H.R. 3961, the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act of 2009. It was good to hear from you, and I appreciate your taking the time to share your views with me.

I share your support of this legislation. The benefits that Medicare provides are essential to the health security of today's older Americans, but those benefits will be worthless if Medicare does not pay doctors enough to enable them to see Medicare patients. You may be pleased to know on November 19, 2009, I voted in favor of H.R. 3961, and the bill passed the United States House of Representatives by a vote of 243-183. As you may know, H.R. 3961 will create a stable system for Medicare payments to physicians that protects seniors, preserves their relationship with their doctors and promotes primary care. It also restores fiscal discipline to Congress by making budgetary pay-as-you-go rules permanent. The legislation awaits further consideration in the U.S. Senate. You can be sure I will keep your thoughts in mind as Congress continues its work on legislation to improve our health care system for all Americans.

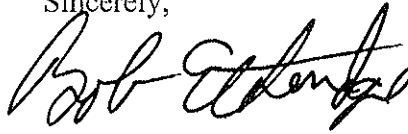
I am working with my colleagues in Congress and the Administration to respond to the challenges that face our nation. Together, we will build a stronger economy, find common sense solutions to our energy needs, make sure every child gets a quality education, and expand access to health care for all Americans. It is an honor to represent you in Congress, and I welcome your continued input.

Mr. Robert W. Seligson

March 1, 2010

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Etheridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" being more prominent and the last name "Etheridge" following in a similar style.

Bob Etheridge
Member of Congress

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P.S. You may sign up for my email newsletter at www.house.gov/etheridge.