

Talking Points on Repeal of the SGR:*

- The SGR formula was created 18 years ago. It hasn't worked to control Medicare costs. It's time to repeal it. The only thing it has done is threaten physicians year after year with huge Medicare cuts ... and force you and others in Congress to spend time patching over the proposed cuts.
- We physicians are tired of the never-ending uncertainty; the never-ending threats to cut Medicare pay; the never-ending need to lobby Congress on the same, never-ending problem. Our patients are tired of the never-ending fear of losing their doctor. Eighteen years and 17 patches is enough.
- Passing this bill would be great news for the 1.6 million elderly, people with disabilities, and military family members in North Carolina whose access to health care is endangered by the SGR.
- We are closer than ever to getting rid of the SGR and moving on to more important issues. Please support HR 1470, the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2015. Please keep your promise.

For REPUBLICAN Members of Congress

- The “cost” of repealing the SGR is fake. Thankfully, Congress has prevented the SGR cuts from taking effect 17 times. As Americans for Tax Reform reminds us, “Congress will continue to not impose SGR cuts. To pretend that it will, and then demand spending cuts to ‘pay for’ repealing it, is cognitive dissonance of the highest order. ... Getting rid of it is simply not a budgetary event.”
- The SGR hides the true cost of Medicare. Pretending that the SGR will someday take effect and someday hold down Medicare spending in the future makes Medicare look much stronger than it actually is. Those assumptions helped the Obama Administration rationalize the numbers that supported the passage of the Affordable Care Act. As *The Wall Street Journal*, puts it, “The practical result has been to disguise future spending from the federal budget and thus hide Medicare’s true cost.”
- The SGR repeal bill itself makes important and significant changes in Medicare financing. The package does more than eliminate the SGR; it profoundly reforms how Medicare pays physicians for health care services. It also pays for some of the cost of repealing the SGR with changes in Medicare premiums and Medigap coverage for the wealthiest retirees. Long-term, those are some huge savings — estimated at up to \$295 billion over the next 20 years.
- The SGR stands in the way of real health care reforms. The constant patches and negotiations over the “doc fix” bills distract you and us from the significant structural reforms we want. We’ll never get to them as long as the “doc fix” is on the agenda ahead of them every year.

**Talking points provided by the Texas Medical Association*

For DEMOCRATIC Members of Congress

- The SGR repeal bill itself makes important and significant changes in Medicare financing. The package does more than eliminate the SGR; it profoundly reforms how Medicare pays physicians for health care services and will improve the quality of care for seniors.
- The bill increases funding for programs to help low-income seniors pay their Medicare Part B premiums. It also helps children from low-income families by extending for two years funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program — at the same rates that were provided for in the Affordable Care Act.
- The bill provides \$7.2 billion in additional funding for community health centers for two years. I am sure you have heard from House leaders that this increase for community health centers is “under the same terms that Members have previously supported and voted on almost every year since 1979.

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