

Subject: SGR Update – What to Tell Our Senators

March 28, 2015

Marc Mugmon, MD, FACC (marcmugmon@comcast.net)

To the Advocacy Team and the BOG:

Now that the Senate has gone home for two weeks without voting on HR 2, what **specific** message should we give to our Senators now that they may have gone home for the spring break?

They are already aware of ACC's, as well as all of the other organization's support for HR 2. Does our Advocacy Team feel that this bill is only going to pass if we keep repeating the same message to the Senators? Is there anything else we should tell them? Is this bill likely to be derailed due to differences in the timeline for CHIP reauthorization? Do we ask our more liberal Senators to accept two years instead of four for CHIP? Or do we ask the more conservative ones to accept the bill as is - those from red states may need some guidance as to what to ask their Senators, since I'm from Maryland, and both of my Senators are in the former camp.

Or is there another issue that we need to know about when we contact them?

I know we've never been this close to an SGR fix before, but we've been disappointed so many times, it would be a shame to lose.

Marc Mugmon, MD, FACC
Maryland
Immediate Past Governor

March 28, 2015

David May, MD, PhD, FACC (dcm1988@me.com)

“What shall I, frail man, be pleading?
Who for me be interceding?
When the just are mercy needing?”

Seventh stanza, Dies Irae (Day of Wrath) (A Latin hymn all us Catholic boys know reflecting on the Day of Judgement)

In my opinion, our Senators are not very sharp (or more charitably have lots on their plates) and we “need to stay on point” as it were.

We have never been this close and there are hurdles to overcome, negotiations to occur, deals to be made. Lets not cloud their minds with anything other than the mantra “Repeal the SGR”.

Dave

March 29, 2015

Nick Morse, ACC Staff (nmorse@acc.org)

Thanks, Dr. Mugmon and Dr. May.

You are right- we are closer than we have ever been. We have a consensus bill that passed the House with 392 votes. We have gotten to this point through constant pressure and disciplined messaging from a unified house of medicine. The effort put forth by ACC members and your colleagues in other specialties has been enormous and effective. To convince the Senate to pass this bill, that effort must continue.

We will be back in touch tomorrow with a set of clear, concise talking points, and will continue to provide updates on an ongoing basis. We have two weeks to convince the Senate to finish the job.

Thanks so much for your leadership.

Nick

Matt

March 29, 2015

Edward Fry, MD, FACC (fry5@comcast.net)

Nick,

Thanks to you, the entire Advocacy Team, the ACCPAC, and to ACC leadership for all the hard work and persistence that has gotten us to this historic point in time.

It is the fourth quarter, 1 minute left to play, we have the ball, we are up by two, but there is plenty of time left for the other team to retake the lead. As we have seen on occasion during the other "March Madness", teams get in trouble when they veer from their game plan and try to do too much in a reactive posture. So, as Notre Dame should have done last night, had they conserved their last time out, is to regroup, focus like a laser beam on the X's and O's, and stick with a well drawn up, frequently practiced, designed play to win the game.

As you have stated, our message to law makers, and to our membership, should remain unchanged: Pass the proposed legislation and fix the SGR for good. KISS: Keep It Simple Stupid!

Like our hardwood heroes, we can either channel our nervous energy, as the clock counts down, into the "jitters", or we can intensify our focused, disciplined execution of the game plan until the final buzzer sounds.

Full apologies to Dick Kovacs.

Ed

March 29, 2015

Richard Kovacs, MD, FACC (rikovacs@iu.edu)

Ed,

Well executed sports metaphor. Agree on all counts.

Dick

March 29, 2015

Marc Mugmon, MD, FACC (marcmugmon@comcast.net)

Nick,

Many thanks for your response. A set of clear and concise talking points is exactly what I was asking for. We need to know how to respond intelligently to any new objections that opponents might put forth.

Marc

March 29, 2015

Robert Shor, MD, FACC (rshor@tcg.md)

Agree totally. Pedal to the metal (not usually a NASCAR guy, but...)

Nick and Amy,

Can we put something together quickly (in the next few days) that can be sent to membership through the chapters to contact our senators? Historically, the membership open rate has been higher when it comes from the chapters.

Bob

March 29, 2015

Charles Cascio, ACC Staff (ccascio@acc.org)

Absolutely, Dr. Shor. We plan to have this completed for distribution if not tomorrow, very early this week.