

Subject: SGR Talking Points: Contact your Senators Now

March 30, 2015

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

ACTION NEEDED:

Please contact or meet with your Senators before April 12 to urge them to **take up and pass H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, when they return to Washington on April 13.** We have never been closer to resolving the perennial sustainable growth rate (SGR) crisis. [Contact your Senators](#) now, and urge your colleagues to do the same. [Contact information and suggested talking points are below.](#)

All ACC governors are urged to work with their chapter executives to disseminate this message to all chapter members. Even if you have already responded to our grassroots alerts, please take 30 seconds and [do so again.](#)

On Thursday, March 26, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2, the *Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015*. As you know, this bipartisan bill, supported by ACC and virtually all of medicine, would permanently repeal the SGR, providing stability for Medicare and beginning the transition from volume to value. 392 Representatives stood with the house of medicine in support of this landmark legislation.

The Senate did not take up H.R. 2 before adjourning on Friday, March 27 for a two-week recess. Since the Senate has yet to act, a 21-percent cut to Medicare payments will go into effect on April 1. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that they will hold claims until April 14. Members of Congress are in their home states over the next two weeks until they return for session on April 13. **Now is the time to tell the Senate to finish the job.**

Request a meeting with your Senators

In addition to sending a message through the grassroots alert system, we encourage you to request a meeting with your Senators. You may find each Senator's contact information through the [ACC Advocacy Action mobile app](#) or on the Senator's website. For help scheduling a meeting in your state, contact Elizabeth Shaw (eshaw@acc.org). If a meeting isn't feasible, place a phone call to their offices at (800) 833-6354.

Talking Points

- **The Senate must take up and pass the House-passed H.R. 2 as soon as they return from recess on April 13.**
- Absent passage of this bill, CMS may have to implement the 21-percent cut on the 15th calendar day for services rendered on or after April 1. **This leaves no time to draft or debate an alternative approach.**
- This consensus legislation, crafted on a bipartisan basis, passed the House with 392 votes. 212 Republicans and 180 Democrats voted for this bill.
- ACC has worked closely with Congress and virtually all of organized medicine over the last several years to craft the policy at the core of H.R. 2. This bill will repeal the SGR and combine quality reporting programs to reward clinicians for improved patient outcomes. It also extends funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for two years at levels supported by children's advocacy groups.

- SGR cuts have been averted by temporary patches 17 times. These patches are fiscally irresponsible and have already cost more than the cost of full repeal. H.R. 2 offers structural reforms to strengthen Medicare and will end the detrimental cycle of patches.

Senators or their staff may contact the ACC advocacy staff for any further questions or additional information.

Thanks again for your efforts. Please let us know if you have questions. We will continue to provide updates as the situation progresses.

Nick Morse nmorse@acc.org
Lucas Sanders lsanders@acc.org
Charles Cascio ccascio@acc.org

March 30, 2015

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

Thanks Nick. I want to emphasize that our best opportunity for repeal of the SGR is NOW. If you haven't already, PLEASE seize the moment and work with your chapter exec to modify Nick's message to go out to your chapter membership ASAP.

I have created an option below, but feel free to replace with something you prefer.

B

The TIME to act is NOW, The TIME is SHORT! Please let your Senator know the importance of passage of the House passed HR2. Urge repeal of the SGR!

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Our best opportunity to repeal SGR is now. Approval by the Senate is the next step, but is by no means a done deal. We need all of our members to get this message out. It's simple, even if you have already responded to our grassroots alerts, please take 30 seconds and [do so again](#).

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Senators or their staff may contact the ACC advocacy staff for any further questions or additional information.

The TIME to act is NOW, The TIME is SHORT! Please let your Senator know the importance of passage of the House passed HR.

From: Nick Morse [<mailto:nmorse@acc.org>]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 5:18 PM

To: Board of Governors

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March 30, 2015

Norman Lepor, MD, FACC (norman.lepor@gmail.com)

Nick

Can you forward to us a link that does not require log in or password? I suspect if its not made easy enough we may lose folks who would otherwise participate

Thx

Norman

March 31, 2015

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

Hi Dr. Lepor.

Our software requires a password. This facilitates the personalization of the message and restricts the alert to our domestic membership. Please be sure to remind members to log in using their acc.org user name and password.

As an alternative, please encourage members to utilize the phone system included in the message below-(800) 833-6354. It is not restricted in any way and callers can supply their zip code to be connected to their Senate offices.

Hope that helps! Please let us know what else we can do to facilitate your efforts.

Thanks again,
Nick