

ACP

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

July 24, 2008

Letter Sent to U.S. Representatives Who Twice Voted Yes for H.R. 6331

Dear Representative XXXX:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians, representing 126,000 physicians in internal medicine and medical students, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your “yea” votes on H.R. 6331 when it came before the full House on June 24th and again on July 15th. We truly appreciated your demonstrated support for this legislation at a time when physicians across the country were facing harsh, potentially devastating, cuts under Medicare.

Because of your votes, America’s internists will not face payment reductions under Medicare for the next 18 months but instead will see a continuation of current rates this year and a 1.1% increase in reimbursements in 2009. This increase will create temporary stability for our physicians and also allow them to continue to care for and treat both new and established Medicare patients in their practices.

ACP was also particularly pleased with the inclusion of language in H.R. 6331 that incorporated and addressed our top priorities for the 110th Congress: improved payments for primary care visits through a change in how HHS applies budget neutrality adjustments, and increased funding for the Medicare Medical Home demonstration project. Both of these provisions will have a lasting, positive impact on primary care and the way health care is delivered in the United States today.

Thank you again for your continued support in casting these favorable votes on H.R. 6331. The College looks forward to working with you in the future to address a long-term solution to the physician payment system under Medicare.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Harris, MD, FACP
President