



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

July 24, 2008

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

Dear Senator 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 Senate on July 9<sup>th</sup> and again on July 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 110<sup>th</sup> 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey P. Harris".

Jeffrey Harris, MD, FACP  
President