

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

March 14, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer:

As you know, today the House of Representatives passed an amended version of H.R. 4015, the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014 by a vote of 238 to 181. The legislation, as originally introduced, was the first time both chambers and parties have agreed on solution to the decade old problem created by the Sustainable Growth Rate and a chance to show the American people that Congress can put the public's best interests ahead of cheap partisan politics. The bill would replace the SGR with a balanced incentive-based payment structure that strengthens Medicare for California's seniors. It was supported by provider groups and patient advocates as well as Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives chose politics over the good of the American people and injected partisanship into this bipartisan effort. The bill that passed the House of Representatives, while including the carefully developed bipartisan solution to the SGR, also includes a deeply flawed 'pay for' that threatens the likelihood that a long term solution to the SGR will become law. As a result, the chance to finally fix a serious problem facing California seniors, ensuring our seniors know they can keep their doctors, could be lost.

I urge you to continue the independent leadership you have demonstrated in the past and strip out the partisan poison pill that was included in H.R. 4015 by the House. We cannot allow the 24 percent cut in the Medicare reimbursement rate scheduled for April 1 to occur, and we should not allow partisanship to spoil a rare opportunity to fix a real problem facing California seniors and health care providers.

Thank you again for your leadership and I stand ready to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Scott Peters

cc: Senate Majority Leader Reid
Senate Minority Leader McConnell