

June 11, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Capitol Building, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Capitol Building, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of our members, who include a broad spectrum of Medicare providers, we are writing to share with you our appreciation for addressing the cuts to Medicare that had been included in trade legislation but will now be removed. We support the provisions in H.R. 1295, the "Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015," that remove this Medicare cut.

This week, the House is considering several trade bills. Section 603 of H.R. 1295, which was passed by the House earlier today, would eliminate the Medicare sequester extension for the last six months in 2024, which would have cut \$700 million from Medicare according to Congressional Budget Office estimates. This provision also would have resulted in a net effect of increasing the sequester in 2024 beyond the 2 percent in the Budget Control Act. With the protection of Section 603, coupled with expeditious passage by the Senate of H.R. 1295 as amended, we would no longer view a vote in favor of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) legislation as a vote to cut Medicare.

Hospitals, physicians, nursing homes and home health and hospice providers have already absorbed hundreds of billions of dollars in cuts to the Medicare program in recent years. We believe that it is an unwise precedent to use Medicare cuts to pay for non-Medicare related legislation. We are grateful this is addressed favorably in Section 603.

Sincerely,

American Hospital Association
American Medical Association
American Health Care Association
National Association for Home Care & Hospice