

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 25, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

We are writing to express our concern with provisions in the House-passed Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act, H.R. 3162, that would have a serious effect on patient access.

These provisions would cut billions of dollars from Medicare medical imaging services - ultrasound, x-ray, CT scans, MRI and other cutting edge technologies, that are *essential* tools of modern medicine, instrumental in trauma care and help with detecting and treating life-threatening diseases like cancer, stroke and heart disease. The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) that went into effect on January 1 of this year has already cut medical imaging by \$13 billion. In some cases, certain life-saving procedures were cut by 60%. The impact of the DRA has been immediate. Already, there have been closures of osteoporosis bone density screening clinics as a result of the cuts.

As you may know, 169 Members of the House of Representatives have sponsored H. R. 1293, the *Access to Medicare Imaging Act of 2007*, a bill that would impose a two-year moratorium on the DRA payment reductions while the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducts a study on the likely impact of these Medicare cuts on patient access.

As the House and Senate work to address physician payment issues, we respectfully request that you work with your committee chairmen to take any cuts to medical imaging services off of the table. Instead, we hope Congress will work with provider groups in drafting policies that focus on medical imaging quality and appropriateness, so we can ensure that our Medicare beneficiaries are receiving the right imaging test by the right provider at the right time.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,