

**SIGN ON LETTER FOR STATES AND SPECIALTY SOCIETIES
Urge Prompt Passage of H.R. 3961**

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The undersigned physician organizations are writing to urge the House to follow up on last week's health system reform vote with a determined effort to secure the future of the Medicare program.

Existing obligations to patients covered by Medicare and TRICARE also must be fulfilled in order to make comprehensive health system reform a reality. Swift passage of H.R. 3961, the "Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act," will replace the physician payment system that is widely acknowledged to be dysfunctional and that continually threatens access to care for our nation's elderly and disabled patients, as well as for our military families covered by TRICARE. It also will help provide physician practices with financial stability and predictability and enable them to invest in the infrastructure needed to build a health care system for the 21st century. Without Medicare physician payment reform, the goals of health system reform will remain out of reach.

Another short-term "patch" that serves only to increase the severity of future cuts and raise the costs of permanently repealing the sustainable growth rate (SGR) Medicare physician payment formula is not a fiscally responsible solution. For that reason, we are committed to working with you to achieve immediate passage of H.R. 3961. Medicine can no longer support the sort of short-term patches that have been used in the past to postpone true payment reform.

We look forward to working with you and the Administration to secure passage of Medicare physician payment reform legislation that will be signed into law.

Sincerely,