



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

July 28, 2008

The Honorable Edward Kennedy  
Chairman  
Senate Health Education, Labor & Pensions  
835 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kennedy:

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 thanks and gratitude for your courageous “yea” vote on cloture on July 9<sup>th</sup> when H.R. 6331 came before the full Senate. We truly appreciated the tremendous effort you made on behalf of the health care community to come to Washington to cast your vote on this extremely important legislation.

Because of your vote, America’s internists will not face devastating 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.

Your “yea” vote on cloture is testament to your dedication and to your leadership in the Senate. On behalf of the College, I thank you and continue to wish you well.

Sincerely,

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

Jeffrey Harris, MD, FACP  
President