



Physicians Caring for Texans

December 7, 2012

The Texas Congressional Delegation
C/o Congressman Michael C. Burgess, MD
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Burgess:

On behalf of the more than 50,000 physician and medical student members of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our strong opposition to proposals to reduce or eliminate the Medicaid physician payment increase recently finalized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

We cannot turn Medicaid into a more effective delivery system until we shore up Medicaid patients' eroding access to primary care physicians and key specialists. Only 31 percent of Texas physicians now accept all new Medicaid patients, according to a recent Texas Medical Association survey, and poor payment is the primary reason. CMS recognized this when it acted to boost Medicaid payments for eligible physician services. Reversing this solution for short-term savings – even if those savings might be used to fix Medicare's glaring payment problems – will ultimately cost lives and more money.

We strongly urge you to oppose elimination of the Medicaid primary care payment increase.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Speer, MD
President
Texas Medical Association

Jose A. Perez, Jr., MD, FACP
President
Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians

Troy Fiesinger, MD
President
Texas Academy of Family Physicians

Kimberly Avila Edwards, MD
President
Texas Pediatric Society