



Physicians Caring for Texans

Nov. 17, 2015

The Honorable Tom Price, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
100 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Price,

The Texas Medical Association (TMA) stands with you in support of H.R. 3940, the Meaningful Use Hardship Relief Act of 2015. Please let me know how we can help you get this bill passed.

Since inception of the meaningful use program, TMA has studied rules, developed resources, educated physicians, listened to complaints, advocated for improvements, and tracked results. During this process, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has disregarded stakeholders frequently. The unacceptable lateness of the 2015-17 modification rule is a prime example of this disregard. Physician practices and the health care industry cannot be expected to turn on a dime, especially when regulatory changes are rolled out during a required reporting period.

Congress can grant relief to physicians quickly by removing the requirement for CMS to review each hardship application one at a time. We urge you and your colleagues to pass H.R. 3940 without delay. TMA appreciates you recognizing the problem then presenting such a simple solution in H.R. 3940.

TMA is a private, voluntary, nonprofit association representing more than 48,000 Texas physicians and medical students. TMA was founded in 1853 to serve the people of Texas in matters of medical care, prevention and cure of disease, and improvement of public health. Today, our maxim continues in the same direction: "Physicians Caring for Texans." TMA's diverse members practice all across our great state and in all fields of medical specialization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Garcia".

Tom Garcia, MD  
President

CC: Texas Delegation