



July 28, 2008

The Honorable John W. Warner
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 224-6295

Subject: Thank you for your H.R. 6331 “yea” vote on cloture

Dear Senator Warner:

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 appreciation for your “yea” vote on cloture on July 9 when H.R. 6331 came before the full Senate. I also wish to thank Angela Stewart for meeting with me and Rich Trachtman of ACP Services, in late June, prior to my appearing before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Additionally, Ms. Stewart’s willingness to take my questions by phone prior to the vote on H.R. 6331 was very much appreciated.

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 percent 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 110th 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 leadership in the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey P. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey Harris, MD, FACP
President