



March 25, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

The American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC) offers its endorsement of H.R. 2, the “Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act,” and its immediate passage which will bring at long last an end to Medicare physician payment uncertainty.

ASNC is the international leader in education, advocacy, and quality in cardiovascular imaging, with more than 4,500 members worldwide. ASNC’s membership is composed of cardiologists, radiologists, physicians, scientists, technologists, imaging specialists, and other professionals dedicated to the science and practice of nuclear cardiology.

Payment cuts and unpredictability in cardiology have been disruptive to physician practices and have led to major changes in the cardiovascular practice landscape. Not only will H.R. 2 create payment stability, but it will validate and recognize the tremendous commitment that ASNC and its members have made to improving the quality, safety and diagnostic value of nuclear cardiac imaging by transitioning Medicare from a volume- to value-based system. ASNC recognizes that the real work lies ahead of us in successfully making this transition, but we cannot proceed with the continuing threat of steep payment reductions. For that reason we are calling upon your House colleagues to pass H.R. 2 before March 31.

ASNC thanks both of you for leadership and demonstration of bipartisanship. While repeal of the SGR is vitally important to physicians, Medicare patients will be the ultimate beneficiaries of H.R.2. As Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell stated at today’s launch of the Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network, health care providers and other stakeholders must deliver care in a way that is better, smarter and healthier. We believe H.R. 2 will be instrumental in achieving those ideals.

Sincerely,

David Wolinsky, MD, FACC, FASNC
President, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology