

## SAMPLE MEDICARE LETTER TO THE EDITOR (2008)

To the Editor:

As a practicing physician in (city), I'm very concerned that access to care for seniors in our community is at risk because of Medicare cuts to physicians. Beginning this July, the government plans to cut Medicare physician payments 15 percent for the next year and a half, as the costs of running a medical practice continue to increase.

Already, 30 percent of new Medicare patients looking for a new primary care physician are having trouble finding one, and 60 percent of physicians nationwide tell the American Medical Association they will be forced to limit the number of new Medicare patients they can treat when the first cut begins this summer. (OPTIONAL: Add what action your practice will take if the cut occurs in one sentence.)

In order to stop the Medicare cuts from hurting seniors, the U.S. Senate needs to take action before July to replace 18 months of cuts with payment increases that keep up with medical practice costs. I am calling on members of Congress to protect Medicare for seniors, and if you or a loved one rely on Medicare, please join me.

(Your name here)