



**Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA**, Executive Vice President, CEO

June 10, 2008

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), we strongly support the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Physicians Act of 2008 (S. 3101), introduced by Senators Baucus, Snowe, Rockefeller, and Smith. With less than fourteen legislative days remaining before devastating cuts are scheduled to take place, the AMA urges Senators to support cloture on the motion to proceed and passage of S. 3101. These are critical votes for the physician community.

S. 3101 takes important steps toward putting the Medicare Advantage program on equal footing with traditional Medicare, therefore helping to preserve the Medicare fee-for-service program on which the vast majority of seniors rely.

The AMA appreciates the broad bipartisan support expressed by many members of the United States Senate, led by Senators Baucus and Grassley, for halting pending Medicare physician payment cuts. These cuts, scheduled to occur on July 1, 2008, threaten to undermine access to care for millions of Medicare beneficiaries. It is of the highest importance that the Senate pass legislation promptly that provides positive payment updates for the next 18 months to allow the next Congress and a new Administration the opportunity to work together to finally replace the failed Sustainable Growth Rate formula.

In the coming months and years, critical reforms must be considered if Medicare is to continue to keep its promise to our nation's senior and disabled populations. We look forward to working with all members of Congress in that critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Maves". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA