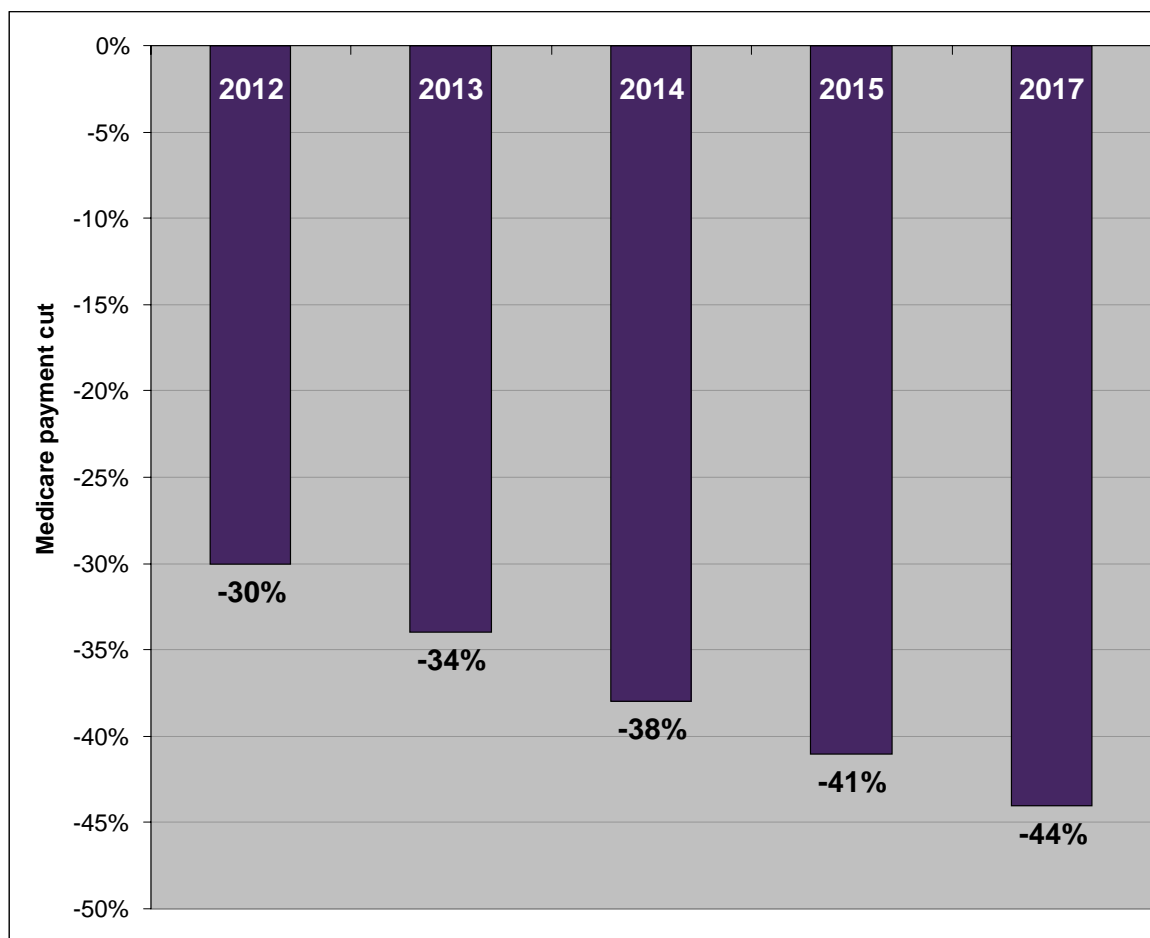


CBO projections show that temporary patches to physician payment formula will dig the hole deeper



Source: Congressional Budget Office, "Medicare's Payments to Physicians: The Budgetary Impact of Alternative Policies," May 2011. Prepared by AMA Economic and Health Policy Research, Sept. 2011.

The most recent scores available from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) for the costs of various approaches to addressing Medicare physician pay cuts due to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula show that the effects of a "business as usual" approach by Congress would be devastating for seniors and disabled patients.

Physicians currently face a 30 percent cut on Jan. 1, 2012. A one-year freeze would produce a 34 percent "cliff" in 2013, and a two-year freeze would dig the hole deeper, to 38 percent. Temporary patches over 3 or 5 years would cause cuts greater than 40 percent, with a 44 percent cut in 2017 following a 5-year freeze from 2012–2016.

Congress needs to stop digging the hole deeper and repeal the SGR once and for all.