



**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
OTOLARYNGOLOGY—
HEAD AND NECK SURGERY**

March 25, 2015

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

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

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the approximately 12,000 members of the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS), **I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA).**

By incorporating the bipartisan and bicameral legislation that was crafted during the 113th Congress and reintroduced this year as H.R. 1470, your bill will—after 14 years and 17 short-term patches—permanently repeal the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula used to determine payments to physicians under the Medicare program. The Medicare physician payment policies included in H.R. 2 also provide a pathway for improved quality and efficiency in the Medicare program, and will ensure a more stable environment for physicians, their practices, and their patients.

In addition, the AAO-HNS appreciates the inclusion of language in H.R. 2 to rescind the ill-advised provision in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Physician Fee Schedule 2015 Final Rule to convert all 10- and 90-day global payment codes to 0-day codes in 2017 and 2018, respectively. If implemented by CMS, the elimination of existing global surgical payment codes would have a wide-ranging, negative impact on patients, physicians, hospitals, and third-party payers.

The AAO-HNS commends your leadership and courage in addressing this long-standing issue, and welcomes the opportunity to work with you, your staff, and others in the physician community to advance this critical legislation. Only then can we focus our collective efforts on forging a new, patient-centric, quality-based healthcare system. If you or your staffs have any questions, please contact Megan Marcinko, Senior Manager for Congressional and Political Affairs, at 703-535-3796 or mmarcinko@entnet.org.

Sincerely,

James C. Denny III, MD
Executive Vice President/CEO

Cc: U.S. House of Representatives

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