H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
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March 9, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Burwell
U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201-0004

Dear Secretary Burwell,

I write to express my opposition to the Administration's FY16 budget proposal dealing with Medicare bad debt. As you are aware the President's budget proposed reducing Medicare bad debt payments from the current level of 65% all the way down to 25%.

I represent a rural district in Southwest Virginia with a very high proportion of low-income residents and senior citizens. Many of my hospitals are barely breaking even and are classified and Low Volume and Medicare Dependent. These hospitals are now struggling further because of Obamacare and other actions that this administration has taken, including its War on Coal.

In fact, I have had one hospital that closed its doors because of these issues. I do not want to see others follow suit, which would further the access problem that exists in my district.

For this reason, I oppose this budget proposal which would harm the patients and healthcare providers I represent. I look forward to working with you to get our healthcare costs under control while expanding, and not harming, access to care in rural areas like the one I represent.

For more information on what is happening in Congress, please visit my website at www.morgangriffith.house.gov. If I may be of further assistance to you on this, or any other issue, please feel free to contact me in my Washington, DC office at (202) 225-3861. I remain

Sincerely yours,

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress

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