AMERICA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

April 13, 2015

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

As organizations representing hospitals and health systems across the country, we are writing to express our support for H.R. 2, the "Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015," a bipartisan compromise to permanently resolve the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). H.R. 2 will move physicians toward payment based on value rather than volume, a change that has been led by hospitals.

For too long, the annual effort of "patching" the SGR has resulted in postponement of a sustainable and predictable remedy, escalating the budgetary cost of an eventual solution and resulting in significant and damaging Medicare and Medicaid cuts to hospitals. While the legislation produced in the House is not perfect, it provides a balanced approach to addressing the SGR.

We appreciate the effort that has been put forth in crafting this legislation. Eliminating planned cuts to physicians in Medicare will ensure access to care for our nation's Medicare beneficiaries.

We urge you to support H.R. 2.

Sincerely,

America's Essential Hospitals
American Hospital Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Federation of American Hospitals
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
Premier healthcare alliance
VHA Inc.