

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
General Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The undersigned Members of Congress write to express our support for the appointment of a specialty physician, particularly a surgeon, for a position on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC).


Every day, there are approximately 10,000 new enrollees in the Medicare program. This is a record surge in Medicare enrollment, and it's expected to continue for the next 15 years as the baby boomers age into their golden years. It also means that the total number of Medicare beneficiaries is expected to double within the next 20 years. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that 80 million Americans will be eligible for Medicare by 2035 if current trends hold. At the same time, the demand for specialty care is ever increasing.

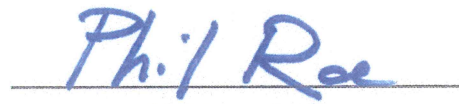
The healthcare system is rapidly transforming to meet these demands, and the passage of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Program will alter the delivery of care. Improving the value of care will be central to ensuring that the Medicare program remains a robust healthcare program well into the future, and the role of specialists is essential to achieve this goal. The success of alternative payment models depends on the participation of specialists who are in critical positions to help improve care and hold down costs. MedPAC stands to benefit from the input of physicians who are well versed in Medicare payment systems, including fee-for-service, to help the program realize these changes.

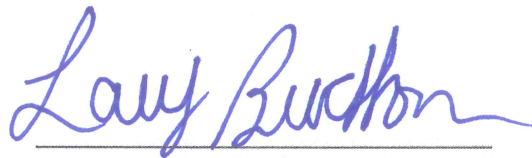
Our elderly face a wide-range of healthcare challenges and timely access to appropriate specialty care can be the difference between permanent disability and death, or the preservation of health. Specialty physician expertise on MedPAC will help guide the Commission through key discussions regarding policy recommendations that preserve timely access to lifesaving treatments and promote cost effective payment systems.

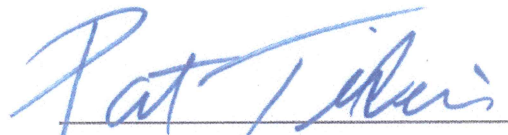
We encourage you to appoint a practicing physician specialist to MedPAC and thank you for your consideration of our request.

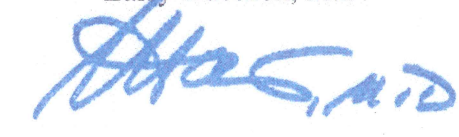
Sincerely,

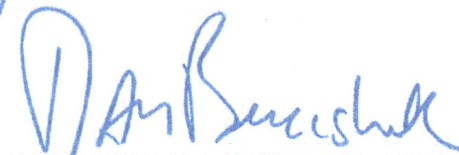

Tom Price, M.D.

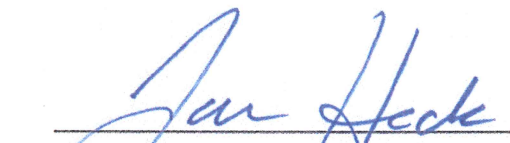

Phil Roe, M.D.



Larry Bucshon, M.D.

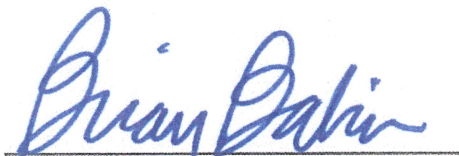

Pat Tiberi

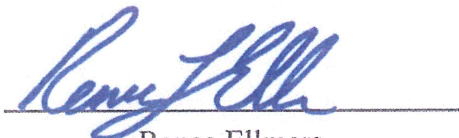

Andy Harris, M.D.

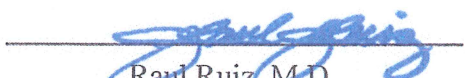

Dan Benishek, M.D.

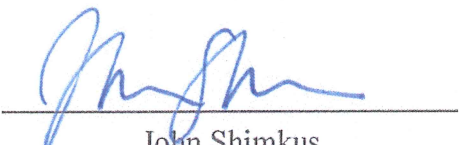

Joe Heck, D.O.


Ralph Abraham, M.D.


Brian Babin, DDS


Renee Ellmers


Raul Ruiz, M.D.


John Shimkus


Billy Long


Bill Flores

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson

Lynn Jenkins

Lynn Jenkins

Steve King

Steve King

Walter B. Jones

Walter Jones

Vern Buchanan

Vern Buchanan

David Rouzer

David Rouzer

Richard Hudson

Richard Hudson

Paul A. Gosar, DDS

Paul Gosar, DDS

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

Buddy Carter
