



July 11, 2008

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

The American College of Radiology (ACR), representing over 32,000 radiologists, radiation oncologists and medical physicist members, would like to express its gratitude for your support of H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008.

This legislation would avert the 10.6 percent cut in physician reimbursement called for under the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and replace it with a 0.5 percent update for the rest of 2008 and a 1.1 percent update for 2009. Providing relief from the SGR cuts for 18 months is a critical first step towards replacing the flawed payment system with a more thoughtful and stable approach to reimbursing physicians that reflects the true costs of providing services to Medicare beneficiaries.

The ACR is especially appreciative of the inclusion of Section 135 which includes two important policies dealing with the provision of advanced diagnostic imaging services. Both of these proactive imaging utilization provisions have the potential to save tax payer dollars and will certainly lead to better patient care.

In conclusion, the ACR encourages you to continue to stand strong with seniors and physicians in your support for H.R. 6331 and vote to override the President should he veto this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James H. Thrall MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James H. Thrall, MD  
Chairman, ACR Board of Chancellors