

From news reports:

Yesterday the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3961, the "Medicare Physician Payment Act of 2009," by a vote of 243-183. (All but one Republican legislator voted against the bill, which passed 243-183). To see how your representative voted, follow this link:

<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll909.xml>
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In addition to permanently repealing the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula, the legislation will cancel the 21.2 percent cut to Medicare physician payments scheduled to take effect Jan. 1. The bill will provide physicians with an increase in 2010 equivalent to the Medicare Economic Index, which will be 1.2 percent. In 2011 and beyond, Medicare physician payments will be based on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) plus 2 percent for evaluation and management and preventive services, and GDP plus 1 percent for all other services. These service categories would apply without regard to the specialty of the physician providing the service.

Action on this legislation now moves to the Senate. Please be sure to contact your senators to urge them to pass legislation that permanently repeals the SGR. The 21.2 percent cut scheduled for Jan.1 **will** take effect unless Congress acts. If you are not sure whom to contact, follow this link to determine your U.S. Senators:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
<http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm>