

THE AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY

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LINDA HIDDEMEN BARONDESS
Executive Vice President

January 30, 2006

The Honorable Pete Stark
1106 Longworth Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stark:

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS), an organization of nearly 6,800 geriatrics' healthcare professionals who are specially trained in the management of care for frail, chronically ill older patients, supports your efforts to reform the system of physician payment and to stabilize payments with a minimum 1.5 percent increase for 2006 and 2007.

Your bill provides real opportunity for Medicare physician payment reform. We support requesting that MedPAC resolve inaccuracies with the current payment formula. We have requested in the past and continue to ask MedPAC to identify and review undervalued and non-valued services. In particular, we would like for MedPAC to further examine and make recommendations regarding the many undervalued or non-valued services for the frail elderly or persons with multiple chronic conditions, such as family counseling, telephone management and social and environmental support.

We appreciate your leadership in this area and hope to work with you on passage of this bill into law. If you should have questions or comments on this letter, please contact Susan Emmer in our Washington office at (301) 320-3873.

Sincerely,



David Reuben, MD
President
American Geriatrics Society