

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman, Chairman
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel, Chairman
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker, Leader Hoyer, Chairman Waxman, Chairman Rangel,

We write to request your prompt attention to an important health care provision for California doctors. H.R. 2820, the "Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) Justice Act of 2009," has languished in Committee; it deserves this body's consideration.

Introduced by Representative Sam Farr, H.R. 2820 corrects a Medicare payment problem created by the erroneous classification of payment localities as "rural" when their cost data are equal to or greater than "urban" localities. This error has Medicare under-paying some doctors while over-paying other doctors.

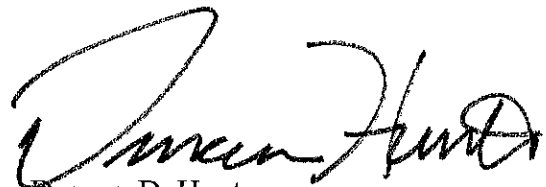
California has the largest locality problem among the 34 multi-locality states. The California "fix" is intended to serve as a pilot program that could be extended to other states in the future to correct similar locality inequities. Physicians in our district have been working with our offices to remedy this situation. We believe this fix is essential to ensure physicians in California continue to treat Medicare patients.

The House health care reform bill contains the GPCI provision in Section 1125. While we cannot support the House and Senate passed health care bills, we do support the bipartisan H.R. 2820 that will allow California doctors to continue to provide high quality service to its Medicare patients. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Duncan D. Hunter
Member of Congress