

February 10, 2014

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Camp
Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways & Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Baucus, Camp, and Upton and Ranking Members Hatch, Levin and Waxman:

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is very pleased that your respective committees of jurisdiction have come to an agreement on the repeal and replacement of the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula for physician reimbursement services with a system that rewards quality instead of the quantity of services that are provided. Although on its face SGR-reform involves physician payment issues, all of the proposals for replacing the current system are integrally related to issues of critical importance to Medicare beneficiaries, and their need for timely access to the most appropriate services for the diagnosis and treatment of blood cancers and other life-threatening diseases.

LLS supports the use and development of quality measures that best meet the needs of blood cancer patients. These quality measures should be used to track outcomes (efficacy and tolerability) and measureable improvements over time. LLS respectfully urges the committee to ensure that patient groups be included in the group of relevant stakeholders eligible to identify and submit quality measures to be considered for selection, and that sufficient time be allowed to generate quality measures where they do not exist in clinical guidelines currently.

LLS appreciates your commitment to patient-centered reforms of the Medicare payment system. We are available to work with individual members to discuss ways to make meaningful changes

to the Medicare payment system to ensure patients' sustained access to quality, affordable, coordinated healthcare for blood cancer patients. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Emily Shetty, Senior Director of Federal Legislative Affairs at 202.408.7631.

About LLS

LLS is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to the needs of blood cancer patients. Each year, over 140,000 Americans are newly diagnosed with blood cancers, accounting for nearly 10 percent of all newly diagnosed cancers in the United States. The mission of LLS is to find cures for leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma and to ensure that blood cancer patients have sustainable access to quality, affordable, coordinated healthcare. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research, provides free information and support services, and advocates for public policies that address the needs of patients with blood cancer. Since our founding 65 years ago, LLS has invested nearly \$1 billion into research for cures and LLS-funded research has been part of nearly all of the FDA-approved therapies for blood cancer.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Rosen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian Rosen
Senior Vice President, Public Policy
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society