

Press Release

Source: The American Medical Association

AMA Strongly Supports Passage of Medicare Conference Report

Sunday November 16, 3:01 pm ET

Blitzes Capitol Hill With Advertising and Grassroots Campaign

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 /PRNewswire/ -- The American Medical Association today announced its strong support for the Medicare prescription drug conference report and urged Congress to pass it before they adjourn.

"We are pleased that the Medicare conferees have reached agreement on an historic Medicare bill that provides seniors with the prescription drug coverage they need and ensures that they have access to a physician when they need one," AMA President Donald J. Palmisano, M.D. said. "The bill also expands seniors' health plan choices and improves physician recruitment and retention in rural and underserved areas."

"Before members of Congress head home for Thanksgiving with their families, it is critical that they give America's seniors a Medicare bill they can be thankful for," Dr. Palmisano said.

On Monday, the AMA will unveil a new advertisement in its ongoing campaign to promote passage of a Medicare prescription drug bill that protects seniors' access to physicians. The ad, running next week in CQ Today and Roll Call, points out that "Virtually every member of Congress has campaigned on passing a Medicare bill for seniors" and asks the question, "What will they tell voters if they don't?"

Through the AMA's grassroots network, more than 10,000 physicians and patients have sent a message to Congress urging passage of a Medicare prescription drug bill. Last week's AMA Medicare ad featured three physicians and the message, "Unless Congress Does Its Job, We Can't Do Ours."

In addition to the need for a Medicare prescription drug benefit for seniors, the AMA's campaign has highlighted the need to halt the impending Medicare payment cuts to physicians and other health professionals. The Medicare conference report stops two years of impending Medicare cuts, replacing them with payment increases of at least 1.5 percent a year.

"Congress is so close to fulfilling its promise to America's seniors and disabled. We urge all members of Congress to vote for the Medicare prescription drug bill," Dr. Palmisano said.

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