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The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Burgess:

The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM), a specialty society of board-certified emergency medicine physicians with more than 6,500 members, commends you for introducing the H.R. 6142, the ***Assuring Medicare Stability and Access for Seniors Act of 2012***. This important legislation provides a one-year extension for Medicare physician payment rates.

As emergency physicians acting on the front line of medicine, we view cuts to Medicare payment rates as potentially disastrous for not only Medicare patients, but for all patients who require emergency care. AAEM believes it is important to keep the Medicare program strong for America's seniors and disabled so that more of them are not forced to turn to the already crowded emergency departments for their medical care. In order to guarantee a substantive, long-term plan, guaranteeing proper services for Medicare beneficiaries, physicians need to first be provided with payment certainty for 2013. Continued cuts in resources to our health care system are unsustainable.

The American Academy of Emergency Medicine looks forward to the enactment of H.R. 6142 and offers our resources to bring this legislation to reality. If we can be of any assistance to you, do not hesitate to contact Kathleen Ream, AAEM's Government Affairs Director, at 571-213-5662.

Sincerely yours,

William T. Durkin, Jr., MD, MBA, FAAEM

American Academy of Emergency Medicine

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