



**May 27, 2008**

Dear Colleague,

Westside Medical Associates of Los Angeles (WMALA) in conjunction with Westside Medical Imaging (WMI) would like to provide you with this important update regarding physician payments and the July deadline.

### **PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW TO PREVENT MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT CUTS**

Please contact Congress to voice your opinion.

#### Clock ticking on Medicare payment

Time is running out to stop a steep 10.6 percent cut in Medicare physician payments scheduled for July 1.

The AMA, in testimony this week to the House Small Business Committee, urged Congress to take immediate action to avert looming cuts that will harm seniors' access to care.

Now Congress needs to hear from you. Call and let your senators and representatives know how critical the Save Medicare Act of 2008 (S. 2785) is for physicians and seniors.

S. 2785 would prevent the 10.6 percent cut in Medicare physician payments planned for July 1, retain current payment levels for the remainder of 2008 and enact a 1.8 percent increase for 2009. The bill would also continue "rural extender" provisions that are set to expire, and would give Congress time to work on a long-term solution to the broken Medicare payment system.

"There are only 53 calendar days, and substantially fewer legislative days remaining for Congress to fix this problem," said AMA Trustee Cecil B. Wilson, MD. "Time is short, and we urge Congress to act before it is too late."

Call the AMA Grassroots Hotline at (800) 833-6354 to be connected to your members of Congress and urge them to co-sponsor and pass S. 2785.

Download the AMA's Medicare Physician Payment Action Kit, which includes details about the bill and how you can voice your support for it.

Westside Medical Associates of Los Angeles (WMALA) and Westside Medical Imaging (WMI) are premier centers in cardiac diagnosis and treatment.

Please feel free to contact  
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or check our website at [www.westsidemedimaging.com](http://www.westsidemedimaging.com).

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