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July 2, 2008

Joseph K. Knollenberg
Congressman of 9th District of Michigan
30833 Northwestern Hwy.
Suite 100
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Dear Congressman Knollenberg:

I want to thank you for your fight to try to stop the cuts in the Medicare payments to all physicians. As a physician, I want to give the best care to my patients as possible. As a urologist, approximately 80 percent of my practice is Medicare. The recent Medicare cuts in the previous years have had me sharpening my pencil to try to cut costs in the office, but this type of cut would mean cuts in services for my patients. I have already lost a couple long-term employees because I have not been able to offer them raises recently.

Personally, my income has decreased substantially in the last several years. If this 10.6 pay cut goes through, I know it will force me to rethink how I care for my Medicare patients. One of these may be to limit the number of new Medicare patients I receive. Personally, I went to medical school to help patients, not to exclude them from care. I would hate to have to do this, but at the same time, if I cannot remain financially solvent, I cannot care for the other patients that I see. Please continue your fight. It is an important issue facing physicians. I appreciate your efforts. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Badalament, M.D., F.A.C.S.

RAB/TTS/rmd

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