

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2012

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We are writing to express our concern about the significant cuts to Medicare reimbursement rates for the medical imaging industry that have been and continue to be implemented. Further cuts to medical imaging could both harm our country's seniors and reduce the number of good-paying manufacturing jobs in one of our most innovative industries.

We agree that we must control Medicare costs in order to preserve this important program for our children. However, the most recently available Medicare claims data shows that medical imaging has declined in both spending and utilization since 2006, which MedPAC confirmed in its 2012 report to Congress. According to 2011 Medicare claims data, per beneficiary spending on imaging services has declined by 16.7% since 2006. Over the same 2006 to 2011 period, advanced imaging services declined by 27.6%, contrasting with 21.3% growth in spending on non-imaging services over the same period. In addition, utilization has decreased in each of the last two years, for a total decline of 5.1% since 2009.

Further cuts to reimbursement rates could reduce access to critical care for our seniors and prevent doctors from updating their imaging equipment. For our seniors, especially those with cancer and disabilities, medical imaging cuts could jeopardize their ability to get an early diagnosis since physicians use imaging procedures to discover diseases at their earliest stages, before they can cause further harm to patients. Additionally, cuts to reimbursement rates reduce the ability for physicians to update their outdated medical imaging equipment, depriving patients of the most innovative life-saving care. Cuts to Medicare reimbursement rates hit our rural communities especially hard since they are more likely to have a lone medical imaging provider.

Reduced physician demand for innovative medical imaging equipment hurts the men and women who work in our country's medical imaging industry. Additional cuts could force more manufacturers to reduce employment and cut back on investment in research and development. We should pursue policies that promote job growth in an industry that provides critical medical equipment to our country.

We look forward to working with you to protect and preserve Medicare for our country's seniors and future generations.

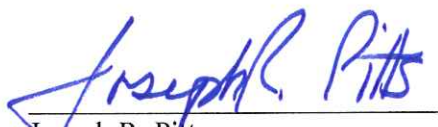
Sincerely,



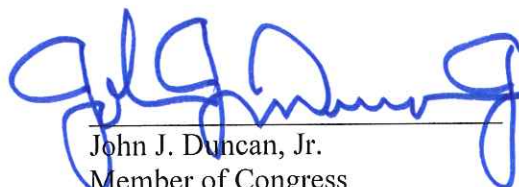
Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



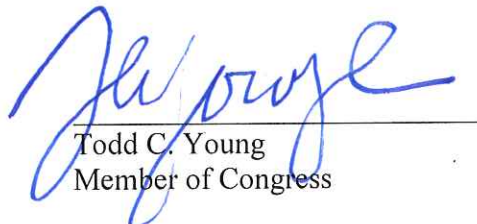
Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress



John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Todd C. Young
Member of Congress



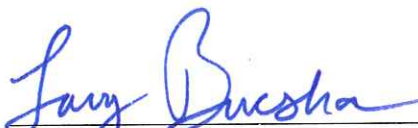
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Todd W. Akin
Member of Congress



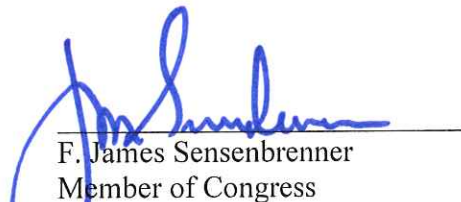
Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress



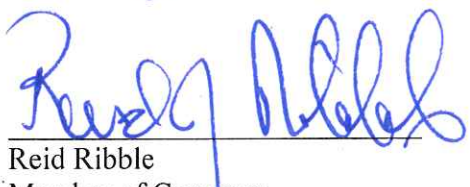
Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress




Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



Jim Matheson
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Marsha Blackburn
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