



June 2, 2015



To All Members of the New York State Congressional Delegation



Dear Delegation Members:

Collectively, the undersigned organizations represent all of New York State's hospitals and health systems; and home care providers, nursing homes, long-term care providers, and physicians throughout the state. We write to urge you to protect the Medicare program by encouraging leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives to move away from cutting Medicare payments to providers as a way to pay for components of the trade package under consideration in the House.



Unfortunately, under the trade package recently approved by the Senate, the cost of certain provisions in the agreement would be offset by extending Medicare sequestration cuts for an additional six months, through 2024.



Extending Medicare sequestration reductions to pay for non-Medicare programs reinforces a dangerous precedent set last year of syphoning funds from the Medicare Trust Fund for non-Medicare purposes. Such action will most certainly undermine the strength of the Trust Fund and the ability of hospitals, health systems, physicians, home care providers, nursing homes, and other providers to provide the care our communities need and deserve.



As the House considers the Senate-passed trade package, we urge you to work with your colleagues to protect New York providers and the patients they serve by finding another offset for the agreement.



Thank you for your consideration and support.



Sincerely,

Joanne Cunningham
President
Home Care Association of New York State

Dennis P. Whalen
President
Healthcare Association of New York State



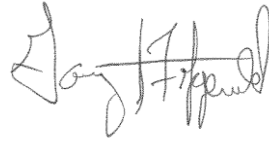
Kenneth E. Raske
President
Greater New York Hospital Association

John E. Bartimole
President
Western New York Healthcare Association

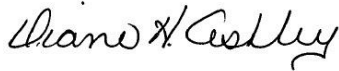




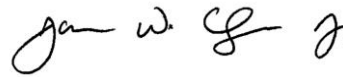
Kevin W. Dahill
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