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Dear Patients and Community Members:

At Commonwealth Orthopaedics, we treat thousands of seniors every year with a variety of orthopaedic problems. Many of our senior patients have Medicare as their primary source of insurance. On April 1, 2010, physicians who treat Medicare patients will face a 21 percent cut in reimbursement for the care they provide. If the reimbursement cut goes into effect, this will drastically limit access seniors will have not only with their orthopaedic physician but any physician.

For many years now, physicians have been threatened with large cuts in Medicare reimbursements only for Congress to act at the last minute with a temporary patch. This allows the problem to grow and increases the cost of a permanent solution. Congress must fix this problem now so seniors can be assured of continued access to care and choice of physician.

Today, about one out of four Medicare patients looking for a new primary care physician is having trouble finding one. In addition, nearly 90 percent of people age 50 and older are concerned that the current Medicare physician payment formula threatens their access to care.

If the 21 percent cut in Medicare reimbursement goes into effect, Commonwealth Orthopaedics will have to consider its options and determine whether or not it can continue to provide care to patients with Medicare.

At Commonwealth Orthopaedics, we are proud of the relationships we have built over the years with our patients. We hope we can count on you now to partner with us and contact your U.S. Senator. Tell your Senator it's time to permanently protect access to care and physician choice.

You can call your senators today through the American Medical Association hotline at 888-434-6200 or you can call them or email them directly at their U.S. Senate Office.

Virginia:

Mark Warner: 202-224-2023 -- <http://warner.senate.gov/public/>
Jim Webb: 202-224-4024 -- <http://webb.senate.gov/>

Maryland:

Benjamin Cardin: 202-224-4524 -- <http://cardin.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm>
Barbara Mikulski: 202-224-4654 -- <http://mikulski.senate.gov/>

Thank you for your support.

Physicians of Commonwealth Orthopaedics