

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

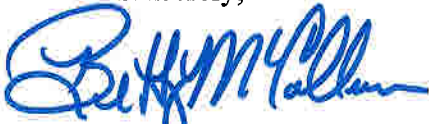
Please join us in sending the attached letter to CMS expressing our concern about the under-funding of Medicare anesthesia services and the consequences of these inadequate reimbursements on patient access.

Medicare's payments for anesthesia services are significantly less than those for other specialties and are currently lower than they were in 1990. In fact, Medicare pays only 40 percent of what private insurers pay for anesthesia, while payments for other services exceed 80 percent of the commercial rate. Last year, CMS instituted another significant cut of nearly 9 percent to anesthesia services – exceeding cuts to all other medical specialties.

It is critical that Medicare patients continue to have access to anesthesia services in all parts of our country. Our letter asks CMS to review the current under-payments and to determine whether there should be changes made as part of the 2008 fee schedule rulemaking process.

For additional information or to sign this letter please contact Emily Lawrence with Congresswoman McCollum ([emily.lawrence@mail.house.gov](mailto:emily.lawrence@mail.house.gov)) or Stuart Burns with Congressman Weldon ([stuart.burns@mail.house.gov](mailto:stuart.burns@mail.house.gov))

Sincerely,



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Dave Weldon, M.D.  
Member of Congress