

Urgent Action Needed on Medicare

Thank you for your support of ASCP's advocacy efforts over the years.

The Society needs you to become engaged again. What follows is an urgent action alert that needs immediate response.

Over 1000 messages were sent from ASCP activists during a 24 hour period to repeal competitive bidding and fix the severe Medicare physician payment cuts scheduled for July 1. On June 26, the Senate Democrats failed by one vote to gain cloture on the House-passed Medicare package (H.R. 6331) in a last-minute attempt to ward off physician payment cuts slated to go into effect July 1. Late last night the Senate failed to proceed to and adopt H.R. 6331 - the Medicare Improvements to Patients and Providers Act by a vote of 58 to 40. 60 votes were needed to pass the bill. In a procedural move, the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) changed his vote to "No" so that he could call the bill up at a future date. Therefore the measure fell one vote short of being adopted. The implications of a failed vote are that a 10.6% physician payment cut will go into effect on July 1. Competitive bidding is currently on hold so the immediate implications of this vote are less severe than for the physicians who will experience the cut immediately on claims filed on and after July 1. The next opportunity for action appears to be after the Congressional July 4 recess meaning around July 8. We will be updating all members through our July e-Policy newsletter and urge you to take immediate action.

Click Here <http://capwiz.com/ascp/path/home/>

To see how your Senator voted on the issue of cloture (ASCP position is yea). Click Here. http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00160#state

This issue is very important so please take the time to send a message to your elected official in Washington DC. It only takes a few seconds to do this.

The bill if passed would eliminate competitive bidding of laboratory services for Medicare and Medicaid patients. If competitive bidding is allowed to happen would be disastrous. Simply put if a patient has either Medicare or Medicaid and needed to have laboratory testing done it would be done by the cheapest lab. Not the one your doctor wants, not the one you want, not the one that has the best quality staff or results, not the closest lab, not the lab that is convenient. No just the cheapest.

If you want any further information www.ascls.org and www.ascp.org have great information.

Please take the time to do this. Unfortunately most of the time for those who serve in Washington it comes down to sheer numbers of support or defeat of most issues. So please make your number/voice heard. This effects us all in some way or another so please pass it on as well.

Click on this URL to take action now

<http://capwiz.com/ascp/path/utr/2/?a=11547956&i=70575731&c=>

If your email program does not recognize the URL as a link, copy the entire URL and paste it into your Web browser.