

# SENATE PHONE SCRIPT

## Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, H.R. 6331

**AMA Grassroots Hotline: (800) 833-6354**

(Note: this phone number will not identify you as being with the AMA)

- This is Dr. [NAME]. I am a physician from [CITY, STATE].
- May I speak with Senator [Name]. [Add a description of any personal relationship you may have with the senator that would make it more likely you will be allowed to speak directly with him/her]. [If the senator is not available to speak with you, please convey your message to the person answering the phone. They will make note of your comments].
- I have served [CITY/COMMUNITY] as an internal medicine physician for [NUMBER] years.
- I'm calling to strongly urge Senator [Name] to vote "yes" on cloture and "yes" on final passage when H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, comes to the Senate floor on Thursday.
- This bill will stop devastating cuts in payments for physician services that are scheduled for July 1.
- H.R. 6331 contains provisions that not only will avert the impending physician cuts but will also provide positive payment updates in 2009. In addition, it provides necessary reforms to improve payments for primary care services.
- Over the last 15 years, there has been a steady decline in the number of practicing primary care physicians and the future pipeline of these physicians is slowly drying up. A scheduled 10.6% cut in Medicare payments that will occur on July 1—**just one week from now**—will accelerate the difficulties Medicare patients are already experiencing in finding a primary care doctor. This causes me great concern.
- Please ask Senator [NAME] to vote "yes" on cloture and "yes" on final passage of H.R. 6331 when it comes to the Senate floor on Thursday.