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March 11, 2014

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and
Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and
Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) to express support for HR 4015, legislation to repeal the Sustainable Growth Rate and implement a payment system designed to incentivize physicians to provide high-quality, evidence-based medical services. The AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 6,700 members including allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, and allied health professionals who treat asthma and allergic/immunologic diseases.

The AAAAI applauds the Committee for developing an alternative to the existing SGR formula. Medicare payments to physicians should be based on quality and value, not an arbitrary volume-based system. Our organization has been actively involved in numerous efforts to develop resources designed to assist clinicians in providing high quality assessment and treatment that is consistent with the best available scientific evidence and clinical consensus. Following are several examples:

- In collaboration with other organizations, we have developed practice parameters for asthma and allergic/immunologic diseases including food and drug allergy, primary immunodeficiency, and the utilization of allergen immunotherapy.

Chairman Upton and
Ranking Member Waxman
March 12, 2014
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- The AAAAI participates actively in the American Board of Internal Medicine's "Choosing Wisely" program designed to help physicians and patients participate in efforts to reduce overuse of tests and procedures and help patients make smart and effective care choices.
- The AAAAI is developing an Allergy/Immunology Quality Clinical Data Registry through which we will develop meaningful quality measures for our field.

The AAAAI strongly supports the provisions of HR 4015 that would expand the availability of Medicare claims data for the purposes of research and analysis designed to improve the quality of care.

Finally, the AAAAI supports the provision to codify in statute the new complex chronic care management coding that will be extremely beneficial to patients with asthma, immune deficiencies and other chronic diseases. We also support the proposed campaign by the Secretary of HHS to encourage awareness and utilization of these codes by underserved rural and minority populations. Finally, we support the required report to Congress from the Secretary on barriers to receiving chronic care management services.

The AAAAI supports the repeal of the Sustainable Growth Rate and applauds your effort to develop a viable, value-driven Medicare physician reimbursement system that promotes higher quality patient care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Li". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James T. Li, M.D., Ph.D
President