

December 1, 2006

Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
The Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
United States Capitol, H-232  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

We are writing to express our concern regarding the large cuts in imaging services included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and the impact they will have on access to life-saving diagnostic services such as MRI, CT, PET, DXA bone density scans, nuclear studies, and ultrasound when they take effect on January 1, 2007. The undersigned groups represent more than 100,000 patients, physicians, and medical providers throughout the United States, as well as health technology firms that manufacture imaging equipment and supplies and that employ tens of thousands of workers.

We ask that you stand with more than 135 other members of the House of Representatives who currently support H.R. 5704, the *Access to Medicare Imaging Act of 2006*, sponsored by Representative Joe Pitts. The bill would impose a two-year moratorium on the payment reductions while the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducts a study on the likely impact of the cuts on patient access. GAO would give special focus to the likely impact on patients living in rural and other medically underserved areas.

While our first priority is to seek immediate relief from these reductions, we are committed to working with you on Medicare changes to improve imaging quality and ensure appropriate utilization. Moreover, this goal can be achieved by supporting reforms to provide incentives for Medicare providers to have their imaging facilities accredited and to encourage the adoption of the use of clinical practice protocols that improve quality and patient care.

We look forward to working with you on these important reforms prior to the adjournment of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

*Sincerely,*

*Academy of Molecular Imaging  
Advanced Medical Technology Association  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance Imaging, Inc.  
Alzheimer's Disease International  
American Association of Clinical  
Endocrinologists (AACE)  
American Association of Physicists in Medicine  
(AAPM)  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Radiology  
American Federation for Aging Research  
American Society for Radiation Therapeutic  
Oncology (ASTRO)  
Cardiology Advocacy Alliance  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
CSCM, Inc.  
e+healthcare*

*GE Healthcare  
Institute for Molecular Technologies  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association  
(NEMA)  
National Coalition for Quality Diagnostic  
Imaging Services (NCQDIS)  
International Society for Clinical Densitometry  
National Osteoporosis Foundation  
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
Philips Electronics/Philips Medical Systems  
Siemens  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society for Vascular Ultrasound  
Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
US Oncology*

CC: Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Honorable Bill Thomas  
Honorable Charles Rangel  
Honorable Joe Barton  
Honorable John Dingell  
Honorable Nancy Johnson  
Honorable Pete Stark  
Honorable Nathan Deal  
Honorable Sherrod Brown  
Honorable John Boehner  
Honorable Steny Hoyer