

June 21, 2010

To: HBMA Membership
From: The Government Relations Committee
Re: SGR and NEW Capwiz Government Relations Tool

As you know, the Senate on Friday passed, by unanimous consent, legislation necessary to temporarily rescind the 21% SGR cut in Medicare payments. This was accomplished by taking a bill previously passed by the House (H.R. 3962, The Affordable Healthcare for America Act), stripping all after the enacting clause, and inserting the SGR fix language. The Senate then passed this as a "stand alone" bill, separating the SGR fix from the unemployment, tax extender, COBRA legislation to which it has previously been attached.

In theory, this would facilitate House passage of the Senate adopted SGR fix (6 month fix with 2.2% update) while the House and Senate worked on the remaining non-SGR related issues.

However, the House Leadership today said that they would NOT consider H.R. 3962 the stand-alone SGR fix bill, and instead, insisted that the Senate pass the comprehensive legislation to which the SGR fix had previously been attached.

For whatever reason, Congress just does not seem to understand the critical importance of enacting a permanent SGR fix.

[Many HBMA members have asked what can they do to help carry this message to Congress? HBMA is pleased to announce that a new tool is available to assist members with communicating with Congress.](#)

Capwiz is a new program available to HBMA members that will allow you to easily and effectively communicate with your elected representatives in Washington, DC. If you know your zip code, you can communicate with your Representative or Senators! Equally important, HBMA has drafted sample communication tools you can use to assist you in writing your electronic letters.

If you go to <http://capwiz.com/hbma/home/> and fill in your zip code, it will take you to an SGR related legislative alert center. Here, you can craft your own SGR letter to your Representative and Senators or use the template we've provided.

It is critically important that you include your name, address, city, state and zip code in the body of your message so they know you are a constituent. Many elected officials are refusing to accept electronic messages from individuals unless they know they are a constituent. It is important that you let them know up front, that you are a constituent!

The HBMA Government Relations Committee will continue to work to keep you abreast of the latest information and give you the tools necessary to effectively communicate with you elected officials!

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