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December 11, 2014

The Honorable Jackie Speier
House of Representatives
211 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Speier:

On behalf of AARP's nearly 38 million members and the millions more with Medicare, thank you for your continued work to close provider reimbursement loopholes. AARP agrees that restrictions on physician self-referral and provider-kickback schemes must be strengthened. Closing the in-office ancillary services exception for certain services will save taxpayers and Medicare beneficiaries money and reduce unnecessary care.

As you know, the in-office ancillary services exception was intended to allow physicians to perform services which can be completed in the physician's office while the patient is present and which aid in the diagnosis of the patient in order to minimize delays in patient care. Unfortunately, the exception has contributed to overutilization and rapid growth of certain services, particularly in radiation oncology, anatomic pathology, advanced imaging, and physical therapy. Closing the loophole will better serve patients and preserve Medicare's resources by saving approximately \$6 billion over ten years for these services.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in both parties to improve Medicare and reduce health care spending. If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Ariel Gonzalez of our Government Affairs team, at agonzalez@aarp.org or 202-434-3770.

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Rogers
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs

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