Medicare Patient Empowerment Act

OVERVIEW

We know that Medicare is very important to seniors, and we know that seniors are worried about its future and financial security. Seniors have paid into the Medicare system for many years. They deserve to get what they were promised—a Medicare benefit that allows them access and a choice of doctors. They should be able to use their benefits to see any doctor they wish—even if their doctor no longer accepts Medicare. Under current law, they cannot.

THE PROBLEM

- Currently, seniors can only use their Medicare benefits to see physicians who accept Medicare insurance.
- When seniors choose doctors who don’t accept Medicare, they must pay the full cost of those services out of their own pockets, usually up front at the time of the service.

THE PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Representative Tom Price (R-GA) have introduced the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act in the Senate and the House.

THE LEGISLATION PROTECTS PATIENTS

- Physicians’ fees must be disclosed before the service is provided.
- Patients who need emergency care, or who are unable to choose their physician, could not be asked to enter into these arrangements.
- Patients don’t need to make any changes to their Medicare plans.

BENEFITS TO SENIORS

- If passed, the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act would allow seniors to see any doctor they choose.
- Seniors would not have to give up their Medicare benefit and pay for the full cost out-of-pocket.
- Health care services from other doctors who do accept Medicare would not be affected in any way.

GET INVOLVED!

- Ask your senator to cosponsor S. 236/H.R. 1310.
- Sign our online petition.
- Download the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act flyer and share it with your family and friends.
• Make sure seniors who have paid into Medicare get what they deserve: A Medicare program that gives them the freedom of choice.
• View the organizations that support this legislation.