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MEMORANDUM

TO: Reporters and Editors
RE: Medicare legislation
DA: Wednesday, June 4, 2008

The attached document contains a description of the physician and health profession-related provisions that will be in the Senate Republican Medicare package. This legislative package will continue the 0.5 percent increase in the Medicare physician fee schedule through December 31, 2008, and it will provide an additional 1.1 percent update for 2009, as recommended by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC).

Additional information about the Senate Republican Medicare package will be provided as it's available.

Senator Grassley is leading the development of a Republican-backed proposal following the decision in May by Senate Democratic leaders to discontinue bipartisan discussions on a Medicare bill. Senator Grassley would like to restart those negotiations, but in their absence has been putting together an alternative proposal to try to make sure doctor payment cuts don't take effect on June 30 and jeopardize patient access to care for Medicare beneficiaries in rural and urban areas nationwide.