



*Office of the
President*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK
NOW, LET'S FINISH THE JOB**

The Senate passage of HR 6331, the "Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008," by a majority vote of 69-30 represents a major victory in our battle to stop the draconian Medicare cuts scheduled for July 1, 2008. The magnitude of this vote was in response to the tremendous outpouring of opposition by physicians and patients directly affected by the cuts. Taking the time to personally contact our senators made a lasting impression. Thank you for taking up the mantle to right this wrong, and for your persistence in driving the message home.

There is one final hurdle to overcome. President Bush has indicated that he will veto the bill, in spite of its bipartisan support and veto proof votes. However, we cannot assume the votes to sustain the veto will automatically be there, especially given the slim margin to pass the bill in the Senate (67 votes need to override). We must continue to press our message to ensure the veto vote is the final step in stopping the cuts. I urge each of you to send that message to our senators continually until the veto is overridden.

Physicians have created their own momentum on this issue of the never-ending saga of annual Medicare cuts. We must keep it, and build upon it, over the next year and a half to force the Congress to solve the real problem. Replace the SGR- this must be our mantra going forward, and we must raise our level of commitment and energy in the process of achieving that goal just as we did on this campaign to- Stop the Medicare Cuts.

You can achieve what you set your mind to do; we have now proven we have the will to do it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell Klein". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Russell C. Klein, MD