Preserving Patient Access to Neurologists

Background
The Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula has been flawed since its inception. As a result, Congress has had to intervene nearly every year to stop steep payment cuts in order to preserve patient access to care. Even this repeated intervention has not stopped physician payment rates from remaining below the cost of care since 2001.

Problem
This cycle has subjected physicians as well as Medicare and TRICARE patients to needless uncertainty. Every year that Congress has avoided taking permanent action, the cost to replace the Medicare SGR formula has significantly increased. The system is broken. Temporary patches do not solve the underlying problem – in fact they only worsen future physician pay cuts and increase the cost of permanently eliminating the SGR formula.

Legislative Solution
It’s time to stop patching a broken formula and replace it with a stable payment system. Protect patient access to care by supporting nothing less than a permanent repeal of the Medicare SGR formula.

Support
The physician community is unanimous on the need to replace the Medicare SGR formula with a payment system based on actual practice costs.