



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS: CONGRESS OVERRIDE SAVES
MEDICARE FOR NOW – AND NOW IS THE TIME TO FIX A BROKEN PROGRAM**

**Statement attributable to Steven D. Knight, MD – President, Illinois Academy of
Family Physicians**

"Illinois family physicians are grateful for the Congressional override of President Bush's veto which stops the 10.6 percent cut in Medicare physician reimbursement rates. Without question, the united voices of dedicated physicians here in Illinois and across the nation led to this important, but temporary, reprieve.

"IAFP applauds the members of the Illinois Congressional delegation who supported our physicians and voted to override the veto.

"Physician practices cannot continue to meet the needs of our growing Medicare population while being paid less than the cost of providing that care. Our seniors need more physician visits and often require extensive physician and staff time to properly manage their conditions. Yesterday's override shows us that Congress is listening and wants to ensure Medicare's long-range success.

"We must come together and reconstruct the entire Medicare payment process. Medicare must reflect the cost of providing care, and accurately compensate the primary care physicians who provide the complex and compassionate care that our seniors need and deserve."

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:
Illinois family physicians available for interviews:**

Steven Knight, MD – Harrisburg
Kelly Carroll, MD – Moline
Ellen S. Brull, MD – Niles
James Cunnar, MD – Naperville
Carrie Nelson, MD – Aurora
Tom Cornwell, MD – DuPage County

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More helpful background on www.iafp.com

- Link to Video News Release about Medicare: <http://www.iafp.com/PR/> and click on “Academy in Action” video for Medicare
- Link to Audio files about how Medicare cuts can effect specific communities of Harrisburg from Steven D. Knight, MD at <http://www.iafp.com/pdfs/sknightmedicare.mp3>, Gibson City from David J. Hagan, MD at <http://www.iafp.com/pdfs/dhagan.mp3> and Decatur from Kathleen J. Miller, MD at <http://www.iafp.com/pdfs/Kmillermedicare.mp3>

The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians represents more than 4,000 family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students dedicated to excellence in family medicine and the patients they serve. Visit www.iafp.com for more information.