



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

December 4, 2014

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 115,900 family physicians and medical students across the country, I would urge you to reject using Medicare savings as an offset to pay for non-healthcare programs established by the *Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014*.

The AAFP supports the review of physician payment codes that are judged to be misvalued and using the excess funds to support the appropriate Medicare payments. The AAFP also supports the intention of the ABLE Act to help disabled adults cover the cost of their health care over their lifetime. However, the AAFP is concerned about using permanent reductions in Medicare to pay for non-Medicare programs.

This is especially true at a time when Medicare faces its own long-term funding needs, and when Congress will shortly look for savings to pay for permanent Medicare SGR reform or a payment rate extension in 2015. The AAFP asks that Congress remove Medicare offsets from the ABLE Act.

If you have questions about this, please contact Kevin Burke, AAFP's Director of Government Relations at kburke@aafp.org or by phone at 202-232-9033.

Sincerely,

Reid B. Blackwelder, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

www.aafp.org

President Robert L. Wergin, MD Milford, NE	President-elect Wanda Filer, MD York, PA	Board Chair Reid B. Blackwelder, MD Kingsport, TN	Directors Carlos Gonzales, MD, Patagonia, AZ Carl Olden, MD, Yakima, WA Lloyd Van Winkle, MD, Castroville, TX Yushu "Jack" Chou, MD, Baldwin Park, CA Robert A. Lee, MD, Johnston, IA Michael Munger, MD, Overland Park, KS	Mott Blair, IV, MD, Wallace, NC John Cullen, MD, Valdez, AK Lynne Lillie, MD, Woodbury, MN Emily Briggs, MD, MPH, (New Physician Member), New Braunfels, TX Andrew Lutzkanin, MD, (Resident Member), Ephrata, PA Kristina Zimmerman (Student Member), Dalton, PA
Speaker John S. Meigs Jr., MD Brent, AL	Vice Speaker Javette C. Orgain, MD Chicago, IL	Executive Vice President Douglas E. Henley, MD Leawood, KS		