



April 22, 2015

Please Reject Further Medicare Cuts to Pay for Trade Agreement

Dear Rep. Flores:

The National Association of Urban Hospitals urges you to reject adopting new reductions in Medicare spending to help pay for the much-discussed trade bill.

Currently, there is interest in the House in increasing the Medicare sequester in FY 2024 by 0.25 percentage points to help pay for the trade bill. The National Association of Urban Hospitals strongly opposes such a proposal.

As we have conveyed to you in the past, urban safety-net hospitals are already struggling to accommodate the significant Medicare cuts they suffered as part of the \$270 billion reduction in Medicare payments imposed on hospitals in recent years; those cuts continue well into the next decade. Often, those cuts have helped fund other health care programs, but the current proposal would reduce Medicare funding to pay for non-Medicare matters.

Despite many changes in the health care landscape, non-profit urban hospitals continue to provide an important health care safety net for low-income, uninsured, and under-insured Americans. These mission-driven providers do so in the face of many challenges, including the significant Medicare spending cuts noted above, and believe hospitals should be spared further Medicare cuts at this time.

For this reason, the National Association of Urban Hospitals urges you to reject any increase in Medicare sequestration to help pay for the trade bill.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kugler, Esq.
Executive Director

