

The Honorable Bill Nelson
The Honorable Mel Martinez
The Honorable _____

I've just heard Congress is considering reducing Medicare fees for physicians. Please don't do that. I want to keep my doctor.

From what I understand, the money my doctors receive from Medicare has been declining for the past 15 years, and Medicare now pays them only about two-thirds of what it costs to run their medical practice. You and I both know that doctors are the foundation of Medicare. They treat us because they want to care for all us senior citizens and people with disabilities. We deserve a first-class Medicare program, and my doctors want to keep treating me. But cutting their payments would make it just that much more difficult to do that.

If my doctors' payments are cut any more, they are going to have to make a difficult decision about how they practice medicine. It could force them to limit or stop taking new Medicare patients, close their offices, and not invest in all that new technology they need to take good care of me. I'm sure it will be heartbreaking for them to have to stop seeing me and their other Medicare patients.

I know my doctors and the other doctors in Florida already do their fair share for taxpayers. They basically give away some of their time to care for patients on Medicare and on Medicaid. When it comes to charity care, I heard Florida doctors give thousands of dollars a year in free service to patients who just can't afford to pay for it.

I ask you to seriously consider what will happen to Medicare patients if you cut doctors' fees and they have to stop seeing us. Where will we go for treatment then?

Sincerely,

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0903
Telephone: (202) 224-5274

The Honorable Mel Martinez
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0904
Telephone: (202) 224-3041