



# OSMA News Now

The Latest News, Views, Updates, and Information for Physicians  
from the Oklahoma State Medical Association

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## Important Grassroots Action Needed

We're now in the home stretch on the Medicare payment legislation. Thanks to everyone who made calls to the Oklahoma House Delegation as your efforts helped us get four out of five of them to support H.R. 6331, the "Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008". H.R. 6331 passed the House by a vote of 355-59 earlier this week. However, our job is not done yet! Additional grassroots action is needed.

The U.S. Senate is expected to vote within the next few days on this important legislation. With fewer than three legislative days remaining before devastating cuts are scheduled to take place, the OSMA is urging all physicians to contact Senators Inhofe and Coburn to ask them to support immediate passage of H.R. 6331. **This is a critical vote for the physician community.**

**If H.R. 6331 does not pass, physicians will face a 10.6% cut in Medicare payment rates on July 1st and seniors will face difficulty in accessing needed medical care. H.R. 6331:**

- Stops the 10.6% cut in Medicare reimbursements for physicians and other health care providers scheduled for Next Tuesday, July 1, extending the 0.5% payment update for 2008 and providing a 1.1% update for 2009;
- Improves and extends payments to rural providers;
- Helps more beneficiaries qualify with premium assistance, provides parity for Medicare mental health benefits and increases coverage for preventive services;
- Continues the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative;
- Postpones competitive bidding for durable medical equipment (DME)

**Time is running out.**

**The Senate needs to act NOW to preserve the Medicare program and Support H.R. 6331.  
Contact these Senators TODAY!**

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### Contact Information - Sen. Tom Coburn

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