



TMA STATEMENT — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 23, 2010

Countdown to Medicare Meltdown: Day 6

The following can be attributed to William H. Fleming III, MD, president of the Texas Medical Association. Dr. Fleming's statement addresses the Medicare physician payment cuts slated for March 1, 2010.

“Texas physicians have pleaded with Congress to fix Medicare for the past decade. It is the insurance senior citizens and people with disabilities depend on for health care. It is what our country has promised them. All of us have paid into the Medicare system. We need a permanent solution to protect Medicare. Elderly patients, people with disabilities, and families in the military deserve secure and stable health care. However, unless Congress acts fast, we're headed for a Medicare meltdown in just six days.

Texas physicians are extremely frustrated. We need a rational Medicare physician payment system that automatically keeps up with the cost of running a practice and is backed by a fair, stable funding formula. If Congress and President Obama really want health system reform that puts patients first, then they need to do the right thing and fix Medicare.

TMA is the largest state medical society in the nation, representing nearly 45,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 120 component county medical societies around the state. TMA's key objective since 1853 is to improve the health of all Texans.

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