



Working Together for an Affordable Future

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Advocates from Across Health Sector Promote Permanent SGR Repeal and Broader Payment Reform Opportunities**

WASHINGTON, DC—Growing momentum on Capitol Hill behind a permanent repeal of Medicare’s Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and related opportunities for broader physician payment reform drew advocates from across the health sector today to a [National Coalition on Health Care](#) (NCHC) forum today.

“2013 is the year to put the SGR behind us and move toward delivering higher-quality, well-coordinated care at lower cost,” said John Rother, NCHC’s President and CEO and moderator of the event.

This event featured a discussion about the shape of Medicare physician payment policy, post-SGR. The event speakers were: American Academy of Family Physicians’ Vice President for Policy and Practice Advancement, R. Shawn Martin; Vice President of the Board of Directors at American College of Cardiology, Kim Allan Williams, MD; and Premier healthcare alliance’s Senior Vice-President Blair Childs. Their presentations are available on NCHC’s website.

Since the Congressional Budget Office lowered its estimate of the budgetary cost of SGR repeal in February, policymakers from both political parties have shown interest in combining an SGR repeal with broader reforms to health care payment and delivery. Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA) and Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV) reintroduced their legislation on the topic, the [Medicare Physician Payment Innovation Act](#). President Obama’s FY 2014 budget, released last month, also embraced this approach. On Tuesday, the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health held a hearing exploring [a joint proposal](#) from the House Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

According to Jack Lewin, MD, Chair of NCHC’s Board of Directors, the reservoir of support among stakeholders is growing. “This used to be just a doctors’ issue, but today, consumer advocates, physicians, hospitals, or purchasers and payers for care all agree we have to seize this chance to realign our reimbursement with superior clinical quality and lower costs.”

To learn more about NCHC’s recommendations for reforming reimbursement and the broader health system, read its [Plan for Health and Fiscal Policy](#).

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*The National Coalition on Health Care, the oldest and most diverse group working to achieve comprehensive health system reform, is a 501(c)(3) organization representing more than 80 participating organizations, including medical societies, businesses, unions, health care providers, faith-based associations, pension and health funds, insurers and groups representing consumers, patients women , minorities and persons with disabilities. Member organizations collectively represent – as employees, members, or congregants – over 100 million Americans.*

*Some members of the National Coalition Health Care (NCHC) do not, or cannot, take positions either on specific legislation, strategies or on any policies outside their respective mission areas. However, all that can, do endorse broad policy positions in support of comprehensive health system change.*