THANK YOU TO THE MISSOURI DELEGATION

The Missouri Hospital Association and its member hospitals thank the members of the Missouri congressional delegation for enacting the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 2). Among other changes, this new law replaces the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate formula with a new physician payment system. By this action, Congress ends the seemingly perpetual cycle of “fiscal cliffs” and payment reductions to offset the cost of further delay.

The legislation also reauthorizes the Children’s Health Insurance Program, as well as a number of Medicare payment programs of particular benefit to rural hospitals and ambulance providers.

H.R. 2 also revises the schedule for reducing states’ Medicaid disproportionate share hospital allotments. The reductions slated for 2017 are delayed until 2018 and the allocation changes in subsequent years are changed, with an added year of reductions in 2025.

Hospitals are incurring some additional payment reductions to help pay for the cost of implementing this legislation. Even so, MHA appreciates Congress’ successful bipartisan effort to bring more stability and predictability to the Medicare program.