

**\*\*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*\***

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What: **Congressman Tom Reed to Discuss Medicare “Doc Fix”**

When: **Thursday, January 26, 2-2:30PM**

Where: **Monroe County Medical Society (MCMS), 132 Allens Creek Road**

**Congressman Tom Reed** will conduct a news conference to discuss the importance of providing reimbursement certainty to doctors who provide Medicare services to senior citizens. Reed will be joined by **James Szalados, MD** (MCMS President) and **Nancy Adams** (MCMS Executive Director). A two-year extension of the current rates was passed by the House of Representatives in December. The Senate passed only a two-month extension as part of the recent payroll tax holiday extension.

“I am very concerned about the impact of this short-term policy on doctors who provide Medicare services,” Reed said. “Small practices will see a decrease of up to 29 percent in reimbursements beginning March 1 and more doctors may decide to stop seeing Medicare patients.”

“We don’t need further restrictions to health care for our seniors,” Reed continued. “The Senate needs to address this problem with a long-term solution such as that passed by the House.”

Doctors who provide Medicare Services are reimbursed according to a Sustained Growth Rate (SGR) formula. For more than 10 years, the formula has called for a decrease in reimbursement rates. However, Congress has passed multiple “Doc Fixes” to ensure that the rate does not decrease. The House has passed a two-year, fully paid-for “doc fix.” The current “doc fix” expires February 29.

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