



THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Representing Virginia Physicians and Patients Since 1820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 10, 2008

Contact: Rachel Mertz
(804) 377-1024

**A Victory for Virginia's Physicians and Patients --
SENATE HEARS PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN VOICES AND VOTES TO STOP
MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT CUTS TO AVOID A MEDICARE
MELTDOWN**

Statement attributable to: Richard M. Hamrick III, M.D., M.B.A.
President, Medical Society of Virginia

“Today the Medical Society of Virginia, along with the American Medical Association and physicians across the country, celebrate that the Senate heard the voices of patients and physicians and voted to stop Medicare physician payment cuts that would have hurt seniors’ access to care by a bipartisan, veto-proof majority of 69 to 30.

“We thank Sen. Jim Webb who supported this legislation when it came for vote two weeks ago and again yesterday. And, we applaud Sen. John Warner, who voted against the legislation last time, for changing his vote and supporting the bill yesterday.

“Now we – along with seniors, the disabled, and military families – call on President Bush to sign this bill into law to protect access to health care for so many deserving Americans.

“On July 1, a Medicare physician payment cut of 10.6 percent went into effect, putting access to health care for seniors, the disabled and military families at risk. In the first week of July, tens of thousands of patients and physicians contacted their senators and urged them to vote for HR 6331. Those voices were heard and heeded.

“Just two weeks ago, the same bill – HR 6331 – passed the House of Representatives by an overwhelming, bipartisan, veto-proof majority of 355 to 59.

#