

News from Representative Mario Diaz-Balart



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April 20, 2015

This past week marked an important victory for Americans across the country with the passage of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. After overwhelming bipartisan backing in the House last month, the Senate joined us in supporting the bill, and just a few days ago, the President signed it. This legislation replaces the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula, a system that has been broken for over 20 years.

Now, you must be thinking, how does this affect me? For over two decades, Congress has attempted to come to an agreement on this "doc fix." With major cuts threatening physicians, more and more seniors have struggled to find a doctor accepting Medicare patients, or some have even had to find a new provider as theirs was no longer taking Medicare. Since 2003 alone, over \$150 billion has been spent in short term patches, but the passage of H.R. 2 ensures that the problem is fixed for good. The doc fix means that seniors will continue to see their own doctors, and it will strengthen the Medicare system for many years to come. With millions of seniors across the country, and growing Medicare enrollment numbers, this legislation was desperately needed to preserve the Medicare program for current and future generations.

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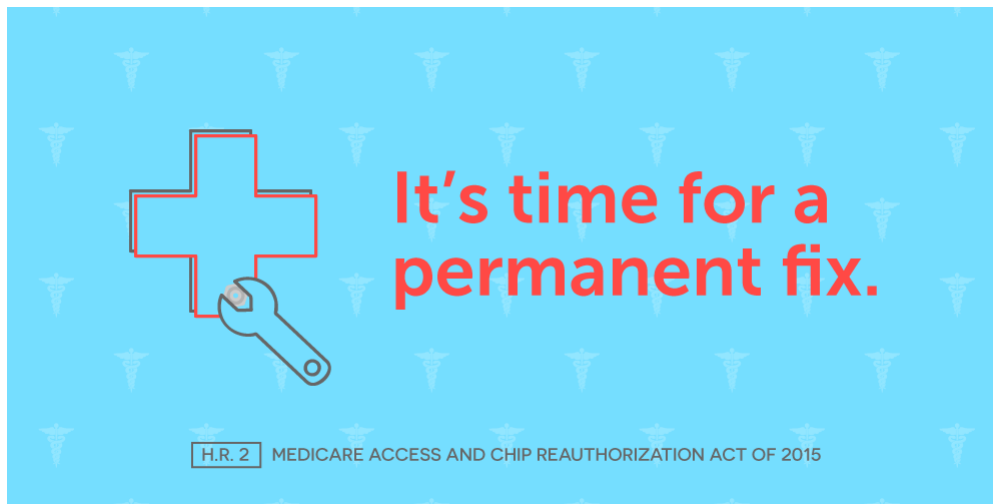
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Last week, the House protected Americans living in states that have state and local sales tax by passing H.R. 622, the State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act of 2015. At the end of 2014, a deduction that allowed Floridians and Americans across the country to claim sales-tax expired. This would have been a major hit to taxpayers' wallets. In 2012, nearly 20% of tax filers in Florida claimed this deduction, saving them each over \$1,400. I'm proud to have supported H.R. 622 as a cosponsor, as it will help a countless number of constituents in the 25th District, across the state, and across the country.

As always, stay in touch on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#), or visit my [website](#) for any constituent services I am able to provide you with.

Warm Regards,
Mario Diaz-Balart
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