November 18, 2011

Robert M. Wah, MD, Chair
Board of Trustees
American Medical Association
515 N. State Street
Chicago, Illinois  60654

Dear Doctor Wah,

The undersigned state medical and national specialty societies would like to thank you and the AMA for your leadership in developing the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act (MPEA) and for including advocacy on private contracting as a priority in the AMA’s 2012 Strategic Plan. Removing the current restrictions in Medicare law to allow patients and physicians to voluntarily enter into private contracts, while retaining their Medicare coverage, will help preserve patient choice and timely access to care.

As we know from our efforts in moving this legislation forward to date, it is essential that we gain the support of the American people to pass the MPEA. Working together, we are confident that the AMA can develop and launch an innovative, credible and sustained legislative and grassroots campaign that will help us achieve passage.

Our organizations are committed to making the MPEA a reality and look forward to our ongoing collaboration on this critical initiative.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Medical Association of the State of Alabama
California Medical Association
Medical Society of Delaware
Medical Society of the District of Columbia
    Florida Medical Association
    Medical Association of Georgia
    Illinois State Medical Society
    Kansas Medical Society
    Louisiana State Medical Society
Medical Society of the State of New York
    Ohio State Medical Association
    Oklahoma State Medical Association
    South Carolina Medical Association
    Texas Medical Association
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
    American Association of Neurological Surgeons
    American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
    American Society of General Surgeons
    Congress of Neurological Surgeons

cc:  Peter W. Carmel, MD, President, AMA
     Steven J. Stack, MD, Chair-elect, AMA
     James L. Madara, MD, Executive Vice President, AMA
     Richard A. Deem, Senior Vice President, Advocacy, AMA