



# North Carolina Chapter of the American College of Cardiology

## **Your HELP is NEEDED NOW!**

On Tuesday, December 15, Rep. Charlie Gonzalez (D-TX) introduced legislation holding cardiology at 2009 practice expense values at the current rates, while allowing other specialty practices to operate at 2010 physician practice information survey (PPIS) values. This legislation could be our last hope to positively impact the cuts that will otherwise go into effect on Jan. 1. Our goal is to get as many original co-sponsors for the bill as possible.

The CMS practice expense cuts are separate from health reform efforts and do not include the 21.2% Medicare physician payment cut due to the sustainable growth rate (SGR). For details about the CMS practice expense cuts and what ACC is doing to respond, go to [www.campaignforpatientaccess.org](http://www.campaignforpatientaccess.org).

### **ACTION FROM EVERY ACC MEMBER IS CRITICAL**

Contact your representative today and ask him/her to call Julie Hart in Rep. Gonzalez's office (202-225-3236) to be an original co-sponsor of the bill. It will take just a few minutes if you:

Use the College's toll-free grassroots hotline (800-210-7193) to connect you directly with your members of Congress.

### **OR**

Go to [www.campaignforpatientaccess.org](http://www.campaignforpatientaccess.org) to send an email.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a devastating blow to cardiology with its 2010 Medicare fee schedule. Rep. Gonzalez's legislation will go a long way towards mitigating the impact of this rule. **Please help this legislation succeed by calling or emailing your Congressperson today!**

We have all the tools to keep the members engaged -- our 800 number (800-210-7193), our [ACC CardioAdvocacy Network \(ACC|CAN\) website](#) to send emails, faxes and letters to members of Congress, our [Campaign for Patient Access website](#), the [Guarding Hearts Alliance website](#), [patient](#)

[materials](#) on the Campaign for Patient Access website, the [practice survival tools](#), and Op-Eds in newspapers across the country.

Assess the impact of the cuts using ACC's [practice expense calculator](#). Then [send us your results](#). Your calculations will give Congress hard evidence of the cuts' effects on cardiology practices. Other tools to help you understand the impact of the rule and to protect your practice are available under [Practice Management](#) and in the [Practice Survival Toolkit](#).

[Send us](#) your stories and your patient stories. We need these to put the unintended consequences of these cuts in human terms.

Tell your community about how the cuts will affect your patients' access to care. Write a letter to the editor or an opinion piece to your local paper. Assistance is available from [ACC's media relations team](#).

Increase the impact of your political donation. Arrange some [face-time](#) with your lawmakers at one of their fundraisers or donate to the [ACC Political Action Committee](#).

[Take Action Now! Write your Members of Congress.](#)

**NC Chapter of the American  
College of Cardiology**  
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*Our Mission:  
To support North Carolina cardiovascular specialists as they  
serve their patients.*