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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2208

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AND THE INTERNET

June 4, 2009

Dr. Sanku Surender Rao, MD
President
American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin
330 S. 5th Street, Suite 301
Enid, OK 73701

Dear Dr. Rao,

This year you will have an important opportunity to help shape the future of health care in the United States. Health care is not a Democrat or Republican issue – we can all agree that America's health care system needs fixing. As Congress debates reform proposals, I believe doctors must have a seat at the table.

More than just having a seat, doctors need to be sitting at the head of the table. **I believe you are the most credible voice in the debate over health reform.** Your education, experience, and relationships with patients and families make you more than simply a "provider" – you are the foundation of health care in the United States. Without your ideas and input, fixing health care is not possible.

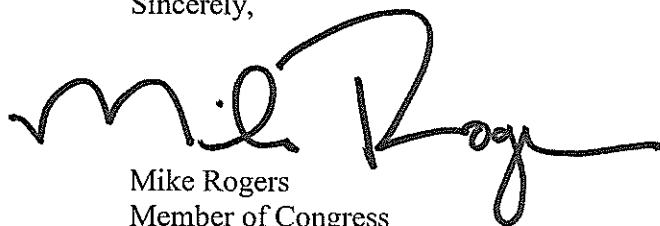
We have many challenges to address. Critical safety-net programs like Medicaid, SCHIP and Medicare are inefficient, forcing many doctors to quit them altogether. After all, if you cannot get reimbursed for the cost of the services you provide that pay the bills, how can you continue to serve patients? Medical liability costs and a maze of insurance rules also make it harder for you to provide high-quality care to your patients.

I want you to be part of the solution. As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, I am working hard to fix Medicare and Medicaid, reform medical liability rules, and improve access to high-quality health insurance for more Americans. I am also working to empower you and your patients, rather than expanding the reach of government into your practice.

Please consider joining me in this important debate. You can send ideas or suggestions on health care reform to Andrew Hawkins, my health care staffer in Washington, at (202) 225-4872 or andrew.hawkins@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and for your service to the community.

Sincerely,



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress