



1949 - 2009

AMERICAN COLLEGE  
OF CARDIOLOGY  
FOUNDATION

Helping Cardiovascular Professionals  
Learn. Advance. Heal.

#### Heart House

2400 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037-1153  
USA

202.375.6000  
800.253.4636  
Fax: 202.375.7000  
[www.acc.org](http://www.acc.org)

#### President

Alfred A. Bove, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.C.

#### President-Elect

Ralph G. Brindis, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.C.

#### Immediate Past President

W. Douglas Weaver, M.D., M.A.C.C.

#### Vice President

David R. Holmes, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.C.

#### Secretary

John G. Harold, M.D., F.A.C.C.

#### Treasurer

Richard A. Chazal, M.D., F.A.C.C.

#### Chair, Board of Governors

John G. Harold, M.D., F.A.C.C.

#### Trustees

Elliott M. Antman, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Eric R. Bates, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Alfred A. Bove, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.C.  
Ralph G. Brindis, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.C.  
A. John Camm, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Richard A. Chazal, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Gregory J. Dehmer, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Paul L. Douglass, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
James T. Dove, M.D., M.A.C.C.  
Robert A. Guyton, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
John G. Harold, M.D., F.A.C.C.\*  
Robert A. Harrington, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
David R. Holmes, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Jerry D. Kennett, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Richard J. Kovacs, M.D., F.A.C.C.\*  
Gerard R. Martin, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Charles R. McKay, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Rick A. Nishimura, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Steven E. Nissen, M.D., M.A.C.C.  
Patrick T. O'Gara, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
George P. Rodgers, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
John S. Rumsfeld, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.C.  
Jane E. Schauer, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.C.\*  
James E. Udelson, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
C. Michael Valentine, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Mary Norine Walsh, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Carol A. Wames, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
W. Douglas Weaver, M.D., M.A.C.C.  
Kim Allan Williams, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Stuart A. Winston, D.O., F.A.C.C.

\*ex officio

#### Chief Executive Officer

John C. Lewin, M.D.

October 19, 2009

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), representing 37,000 cardiovascular healthcare professionals, I am writing in strong support of S. 1776, the "Medicare Physicians Fairness Act of 2009." We sincerely appreciate your support to permanently repeal the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and place physicians on a path toward predictable and stable updates in the future.

As you well know, physicians face an unprecedented 21.5 percent cut in Medicare payment rates in January 2010. The passage of S. 1776 would repeal the SGR formula and erase its past debt, setting the stage for additional Medicare physician payment reforms that we hope will emphasize quality improvements. We believe repealing the flawed SGR formula is essential to achieving true delivery system reform in the future and we look forward to its final passage.

Again, thank you for taking a leadership role in correcting the flawed physician reimbursement. We strongly support your efforts and look forward to working to make S. 1776 law.

Sincerely,

Alfred A. Bove, M.D., FACC  
President