



**AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF RHEUMATOLOGY**
EDUCATION • TREATMENT • RESEARCH

Specialists in Arthritis Care & Research

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April 11, 2011

The Honorable Wally Herger
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Herger and Blumenauer:

The American College of Rheumatology would like to express our support for H.R. 674. This legislation would repeal the three percent withholding provision for Medicare payments that was included in the Tax Increase Prevention & Reconciliation Act of 2005 and is currently scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2012. If not repealed, this provision would be very costly and extremely burdensome, both financially and administratively, to physicians who provide care for Medicare patients.

The ACR commends you both on your leadership in addressing this issue and looks forward to working with you to ensure physicians do not bare anymore unnecessary costs and administrative burdens.

If you have any questions, please contact ACR's Director of Government Affairs, Aiken Hackett at ahackett@rheumatology.org or at (404) 929-4811.

Sincerely,

Tim Laing, MD
Chair, Government Affairs Committee
American College of Rheumatology