

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 30, 2010

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## **MEDICARE MELTDOWN** *Access to Health Care in "Critical Condition"*

Patients and health care providers across the nation are watching Medicare, the foundation of America's health care, crumble around them.

Louisianans, now it the time to tell Congress to "Stop the MEDICARE MELTDOWN." Lend your voice to the effort by signing the petition: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/meltdown/>  
As of today, more than 1,000 Louisianans have signed the petition; over 60,000 signatures have been collected nationwide.

The Louisiana State Medical Society, along with the Louisiana Medical Group Management Association, the Louisiana Chapter American College of Cardiology and the Louisiana Ophthalmology Association, join in an unprecedented, nationwide grassroots movement urging Congress to fix the flawed payment formula that threatens access to care for millions of Medicare recipients, including senior citizens, people with disabilities and members of military families covered by TriCare. In this year alone, Congress has postponed the 21.5 percent cut twice. The LSMS implores Congress to act now to establish a new physician reimbursement system and end this annual game of brinkmanship over impending Medicare payment cuts.

All 50 state medical associations and more than 20 national specialty societies are participating in the petition drive, started by the Texas Medical Association (TMA). The goal is to collect over **one million signatures** from physicians and patients by May 30, 2010, and deliver the results directly to Congress.

*About LSMS:* The Louisiana State Medical Society (LSMS) is a voluntary association of physicians providing leadership for the advancement of the health of the people of Louisiana and serving as the premier advocate for patients and physicians. For more information about LSMS, please contact Sadie D. Wilks at [sadie@lsms.org](mailto:sadie@lsms.org) or by phone at (225) 763-8500.

*About LMGMA:* Louisiana Medical Group Management Association (LMGMA) is the professional organization for administrators and managers in the ambulatory health care field. Members are offered opportunities to upgrade skills, knowledge, connections, and participate in the legislative process on state and national levels. [www.lmgma.org](http://www.lmgma.org)

*About Louisiana-ACC:* The Louisiana Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (Louisiana-ACC) has 440 members, and is the state "arm" of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), a 30,000-member national nonprofit medical society and teaching institution. The Louisiana-ACC is the key voice and resource for all concerned with cardiovascular care in Louisiana. [www.laacc.org](http://www.laacc.org)

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