

## July 15, 2008 - Murtha Votes to Override the President's veto of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, voted today to override the President's veto of H.R. 6331, Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act. The override vote passed the House of Representatives 383 to 41.

The bill eliminates the pending 10 percent cut in Medicare payments to physicians for the remainder of 2008 and provides a 1.1 percent increase in Medicare physician payments for 2009. It enhances Medicare coverage for preventative and mental health care, extends and improves programs for low-income Medicare beneficiaries, and delays competitive bidding for durable medical equipment.

"Today, the House of Representatives sided with the millions of American seniors who rely on Medicare," commented Murtha. "By overriding the President's veto, Congress will improve Medicare for both patients and providers, and we will continue to protect the health care that our seniors depend on."

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act is supported by more than 150 organizations, including the American Medical Association, AARP, Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, National Council on Aging, American Legion, National Rural Health Association, Mental Health America, and National Association of Chain Drug Stores.

The House passed H.R. 6331 on June 24 with overwhelming bipartisan support, followed by the Senate passage on July 9. This morning, President Bush chose instead to veto the bill.

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