



May 27, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone,

On behalf of the CME Coalition, I am writing in support of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, which was recently passed by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The CME Coalition wholeheartedly endorses your efforts to streamline the implementation of new medical treatments, and has a unique appreciation for the need to provide the tools and education physicians need to implement the newest innovations in medicine.

Specifically, the Coalition welcomes the inclusion of Section 3041, adopted from legislation introduced by Reps. Michael Burgess (R-TX) and Peter DeFazio (D-OR), which would appropriately exempt CME and certain educational materials from the reporting requirements of the Physician Payment Sunshine Act. While the Sunshine Act intended to make payments to physicians more transparent, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) has ostensibly defied Congressional intent, providing a mix of regulatory interpretations that have called into question whether continuing medical education events could be subject to the law's reporting requirements. The provision, which enjoys bipartisan support, will help end much of the confusion within the CME community, and we look forward to its inclusion in the final legislation when passed by the full House of Representatives.

As an organization that represents a collection of continuing medical education provider companies, in addition to other supporters of CME and the vital role it plays in our health care system, we recognize the importance of ensuring that physicians are encouraged to continue in their professional development, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues in fulfilling that mission.

We thank the committee for its thoughtful consideration of this bipartisan legislation, and look forward to serving as a resource as the legislative process continues.

Sincerely,

Chris Lamond

Chris Lamond
Executive Director
CME Coalition

Cc: The Honorable Michael C. Burgess
The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio