

March 5, 2010

**Subject:** Coverage for Medicare Patients/legislation

Dear Lakeside Patient,

Our legislators and others have given a special name to those American's who worked hard and suffered through the *Great Depression, Dust Bowl, and World War II*. They have been given the title "The Greatest Generation". With this honorable badge of respect, and apparent regard for these loyal Americans, you would think that our government would bend over backward to help them as they age and often need financial assistance with health care. This is not the case, however, our Congress is refusing to adequately cover the costs of Medicare for the "Greatest Generation", up and coming "Baby Boomers", and those who depend on Medicare insurance. Congress has cut reimbursements to the point that physicians can no longer afford to care for these patients.

*Our physicians want to care for patients of the "Greatest Generation".*

Clinics and physician groups like Lakeside, Mayo Clinic in Arizona, and others, are no longer taking new Medicare patients. This is not what our doctors want, but simply a matter of our Congress not fully appreciating the ramifications of their not enacting permanent legislation to responsibly cover this group of Americans who have contributed so much. We encourage you to contact your legislators (shown on this letter) to tell them to stop the decrease in Medicare reimbursement so the “Greatest Generation” and others can live in good health, and with the peace of mind they so deserve.

*As of March 5, 2010 we will regrettably no longer take new Medicare patients.*

Respectfully,

Lakeside Physicians and Staff.

**Please contact your legislators and tell them to enact permanent legislation to stop the decrease in Medicare reimbursement.**

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years of age and older, some disabled people under 65 years of age, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure treated with dialysis or a transplant).

## **About Medicare**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) administers Medicare, the nation's largest health insurance program, which covers nearly 40 million Americans. Medicare is a Health Insurance Program for people 65