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“Doc Fix” Burns Doctors

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase president of Citizens’ Council on Health Care.

In 1997, Congress enacted price controls on Medicare.

The formula is called the Sustainable Growth Rate, or SGR. If spending exceeds federal targets, doctor’s payments are cut. However, due to physician anger, these annual cuts have not occurred and physician pay has increased. This year, the scheduled cut is 21 percent.

If enacted, doctors threaten to drop out of Medicare.

Now Congress is planning to pass a bill with a “doc fix.” The bill ignores the SGR price cut for 19 months, increases doctor pay, and costs taxpayers $21.8 billion. Doctors are angry that it’s only a 19-month dodge.

The real question is why physicians continue to accept Medicare’s chains.

A copy of this broadcast is at www.healthfreedomminute.net.