

Congressman Rothman Meets with Local Doctor to Discuss the Need for Health Care Reform

(Washington, DC)

— Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D — NJ), met with Dr. Lee Eisenberg of Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey,

a representative of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) to discuss the need for health care reform that ensures surgeons are able to provide appropriate care to patients. They specifically spoke about the need for a long term solution to Medicare Physician Payments.

“I recognize that preventing harmful cuts to Medicare physician reimbursements is important to ensure that doctors, like Dr. Eisenberg, can continue to serve Medicare patients with quality care,” said Rothman.

The most recent legislation to prevent cuts to physician payments was H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008. This legislation eliminated the proposed 10 percent cut in Medicare payments to physicians that would have gone into effect on July 15, 2008. Instead, this legislation provides a 1.1 percent update in Medicare payments for 2009. This legislation became law on July 15, 2008, following U.S. House and Senate votes to override President Bush’s veto of the legislation. The current legislation expires on January 1, 2010. If this legislation is left to expire without extension or permanent remedy, physicians will face a 21% cut to their Medicare payments.

AAO-HNS is the world's largest organization representing specialists who treat the ear, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck. The Academy represents more than 12,000 otolaryngologist—head and neck surgeons who diagnose and treat disorders of those areas.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 24, 2009

CONTACT: Carrie Giddins, 202-225-5061; 202-420-1524 (cell)