

# Congress Reverses Physician Payment Cuts

As one of the final acts of the 109th Congress, the House and Senate passed legislation that would freeze Medicare physician reimbursement at the 2006 level and avert a 5.1 percent cut scheduled to begin January 1, 2007. The legislation also includes a 1.5 percent increase in reimbursements to physicians who agree to report data on certain quality measures. ASH was extremely active in advocating for increased physician payments and has developed quality measures for hematology to be used in a future pay-for-performance program. A detailed analysis of the new legislation will be available on the ASH Web site at [www.hematology.org](http://www.hematology.org).