

PETE SESSIONS
32ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES
(ON LEAVE)



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

□ 2233 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4332
TELEPHONE: 202.225.2231
FAX: 202.225.5878

□ PARK CENTRAL VII
12750 MERIT DRIVE
SUITE 1434
DALLAS, TEXAS 75251-1229
TELEPHONE: 972.392.0505
FAX: 972.392.0615
sessions.house.gov

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSMAN PETE SESSIONS (TX-32)

Today, December 18, 2015 the Senate and the House of Representatives voice voted S. 2425, The Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act. This act includes a provision addressing relief from EHR and meaningful use. As we understand, we believe the language provides for:

- CMS will grant all exemption applications upon receipt.
- A less tedious procedure to apply for meaningful use exemption.
- The 90 day provision previously required is no longer applicable
- CMS will be altering their procedures for this exemption process, creating an easy interface
- By law all hardship applications will be accepted until March 15, 2016

We are pleased with the result of this legislation. This bill comes as a late hour compromise resulting from a multifaceted effort. This bill comes after meeting with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on December 8, 2015, with representatives of the National Physicians Council for Healthcare Policy, Co-chair Dr. Marcy Zwelling, MD, Dr. Michael Koriwchak, MD, Vice President, Docs4patientcare Foundation and expert on management of Electronic Health Records and Dr. Vicki Wooll, MD, family physician. This meeting was a great opportunity for our physician representatives to interact with CMS about plans moving forward, as well as, for CMS to listen to concerns about **our number one policy initiative, available options and relief from EHR and Meaningful Use.**

Under the law prior to S. 2425, CMS could only grant such exemptions on a case-by-case basis, and that exemption process was inadequate and tedious. As a result of the discussions of our meeting, we now believe reasonable options are provided for in S.2425.

I am delighted to report this news to you and please know the legislation as we understand it provides for every member of the physician community to apply for the exemption, including those who have already applied can reapply. Please be advised we have yet gain exact insight on what happens when the exemption is granted.

Please know I am committed to this effort and continue to work towards ensuring the safety of the doctor patient relationship. I thank you for your continued interest and passion in your practice and protecting the practice of medicine. As always if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or my legislative assistant, **Elle Ross** at elle.ross@mail.house.gov.