April 11, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), representing more than 10,000 radiation oncology medical professionals treating more than 1 million cancer patients each year, applauds your FY 2014 Budget for specifically recommending the exclusion of radiation therapy services from the in-office ancillary services exception of the physician self-referral law.

Radiation oncologists are deeply troubled by the misuse of this exception and have worked to close this loophole for many years. Abuse of this exception is resulting in over-utilization, higher costs, problems with access and patient choice, and the potential for inappropriate care. The Office of Management and the Budget estimates that closing the loophole for radiation therapy services, along with advanced diagnostic imaging and physical therapy services would provide a savings of $6.1 billion over ten years.

Closing this loophole will protect cancer patients and preserve valuable Medicare resources. We commend your commitment to addressing this serious problem and eliminating abuse from the Medicare program.

ASTRO looks forward to working with you and your Administration to ensure the integrity of the Medicare program. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Adler, Director of Government Relations, at (703) 839-7362.

Sincerely,

Laura I. Thevenot  
Chief Executive Officer