

# Obama signs temporary Medicare fix bill for docs

April 2 2014

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President Barack Obama has signed into law a bill giving doctors temporary relief from a flawed Medicare payment formula that threatened them with a 24 percent cut in their fees.

The Senate passed the measure Monday, sending it to the president's desk. The House passed the \$21 billion bill last week.

The bill staves off the Medicare reimbursement cuts for [doctors](#) for a year and extends dozens of other expiring health care provisions, such as higher payment rates for [rural hospitals](#). The legislation is paid for by cuts to [health care providers](#), but half of those cuts won't kick in for 10 years.

It's the 17th temporary "patch" to a broken payment formula that dates to 1997. It comes after lawmakers failed to reach a deal on a permanent fix.

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