

Congress confronts Medicare cuts to doctors' fees

March 21 2014, by Andrew Taylor

Hope is fading for a Capitol Hill drive to permanently fix Medicare's outdated payment formula and spare doctors from automatic cuts in their fees next month. Now the question is whether lawmakers can regroup and come up with a short-term solution when the current patch expires.

There's widespread support for bipartisan legislation to repair, once and for all, the broken Medicare formula that threatens doctors with a 24 percent cut in their Medicare payments.

But there's no agreement on how to bear the 10-year, \$140 billion cost.

The GOP-controlled House passed a bill that combines the so-called doc fix with a delay in imposing penalties on individuals who fail to purchase health care under the [health care law](#). That measure is dead in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

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Citation: Congress confronts Medicare cuts to doctors' fees (2014, March 21) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-03-congress-medicare-doctors-fees.html>

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