

HIGPA Backs Transparency on Gifts, Payments

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The Health Industry Group Purchasing Association endorsed a Senate health reform bill proposal to require disclosure of medical-device and pharmaceutical manufacturer payments and gifts to physician-owned group purchasing organizations. In a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), the Washington-based trade group lobbied Congress to include in final reform legislation Senate provisions similar to those in the proposed Physician Payment Sunshine Act of 2009.

“We agree that it is important for patients to be afforded the opportunity to obtain information about the gifts, payments, honoraria, travel reimbursement and other payments to physicians that may pose a conflict of interest between their physicians and the manufacturers of healthcare products,” according to the letter. HIGPA said that expanding disclosure under Medicare Payment Advisory Commission recommendations made last March would be “premature” without experience with proposed provisions in the Physician Payment Sunshine Act.