July \_\_, 2019

Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Senate

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Senate Office Building

Washington, DC \_\_\_\_

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to express my support for H.R. 3772, the Medicare Diagnostic Radiopharmaceutical Payment Equity Act of 2019. This bill would address an unequitable payment flaw in CMS’s Hospital Outpatient Perspective Payment System and ensure patient access to life altering precision medicine procedures.

\*(Insert a brief biography and why diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals are important to your state). \*

Diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals are drugs necessary for all nuclear medicine imaging studies to diagnose and determine the severity of disease. Nuclear medicine and molecular imaging are unique imaging modalities that evaluate function of one or more organs. In many disease processes, the functional changes precede or are more pronounced than structural changes seen with modalities such as CT or MRI. As a result, physicians are able to offer more effective management or treatment plans in a timely fashion to their patients suffering from conditions such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s disease, cardiovascular conditions, various types of cancers, and other maladies.

Diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals are statutorily considered drugs but, despite acknowledging concerns about growing patient access issues as the industry evolves, CMS has treated them as supplies and packaged them into procedural bundles, known as Ambulatory Payment Classifications (APCs), since 2008. This has proved to be problematic as diagnostic radiopharmaceutical costs may vary widely within a nuclear medicine APC and at times exceed the whole APC payment. This translates into a strong disincentive for hospitals to utilize innovative targeted radiopharmaceuticals, serves to discourage investment in and research for new diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals, and impacts patient access to the most appropriate diagnostic tools at readily-accessible healthcare locations. In addition, this can result in inaccurate diagnosis and treatment plans.

I am asking that you consider being the Senate sponsor on this legislation. For questions, please reach out to Dalton Clark, Manager, Government Affairs at dclark@snmmi.org or (703)-326-1193.

Sincerely,

Your signature and credentials (Please do not let the document exceed 1 page)