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## **CARDIN STATEMENT ON SENATE PASSAGE OF MEDICARE EXTENSION ACT**

Washington, DC – *U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD) released the following statement after the Senate voted 69-30 to invoke cloture and pass H.R. 6331, the Medicare Extension Act:*

“I am proud that the Senate, by an overwhelmingly bipartisan majority, has come together on behalf of America’s 43 million seniors and persons with disabilities who rely on Medicare, patients and medical providers, to ensure that Medicare continues to provide comprehensive, affordable and accessible, quality care.

“This is a balanced and responsible bill that addresses immediate reimbursement concerns while setting the foundation for a higher quality, more cost-effective Medicare program. In addition to reversing the physician payment cuts that took effect on July 1, this bill will restore seniors’ access to needed outpatient rehabilitation therapy services, including those recovering from stroke, hip replacement and other conditions that require extensive care.

“I am particularly pleased that the Senate voted overwhelmingly to improve Medicare’s preventive benefits, require benzodiazepines to be covered under Medicare Part D plans, and end the discriminatory treatment of outpatient mental health services.”

This bill now goes to the President for signature with veto-proof majorities in both the Senate and the House.

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