

Statement of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid made on the floor shortly after the House vote:

MR. REID: 20 MINUTES AGO THE HOUSE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE THE 13-MONTH PATCH OF THE S.G.R. THERE WAS WORK DONE ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS BY ALL SENATORS TO GET A PERMANENT FIX. WE CAN ONLY DO WHAT WE CAN DO. I HAD A NUMBER OF MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES COME TO ME AND SAY, WE WILL DO THIS BUT YOU HAVE TO GET THE ASSURANCE OF THE SPEAKER THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT THIS AND THE SPEAKER WOULD NOT ACCEPT WHAT WAS BEING PROPOSED. THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS MY IDEA AND I'M HAVE A DISAPPOINTED IT DIDN'T WORK OUT. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO IT FOR FOUR YEARS BUT I'M NOT SURPRISED. BUT IT'S NO ONE'S FAULT HERE IN THE SENATE. WE HAVE A NEW CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. HE'S WORK VERY HARD ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS TO COME UP WITH A WAY TO GET RID OF THIS S.G.R. ONCE AND FOR ALL. WE WEREN'T ABLE TO DO THAT. SO THE PATCH THAT WE HAVE IS IMPERFECT BUT IT'S DOES THAT WILL TAKE CARE OF THINGS. AND I AM -- I DON'T MEAN TO BE MEAN-SPIRITED HERE BUT I AM TIRED OF PEOPLE SAYING, YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF THE DOCTORS BUT NO ONE ELSE. MADAM PRESIDENT, WE ARE TAKING CARE OF PATIENTS FOR THE NEXT 13 MONTHS. PATIENTS. AND I THINK THAT'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. WE HAVE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE DOCTORS WHO TAKE MEDICARE PATIENTS. FOR US NOT TO DO THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN REALLY UNFORTUNATE. SO I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT WE AREN'T ABLE TO GET A PERMANENT PATCH BUT WE HAVE NOT -- A PERMANENT FIX BUT WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO DO THAT. WE SHOULD BE VERY HAPPY THAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO AS WELL AS WE'VE DONE. I

PERSONALLY AM NOT OVERJOYED ABOUT WHAT'S IN THE BILL BUT I'M SATISFIED WITH WHAT'S IN THE BILL. AND I WOULD HOPE THAT WE COULD EXPEDITIOUSLY MOVE AND GET THIS DONE TODAY.