WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Sam Farr's (D-Carmel) released the following statement to seniors about the House of Representatives agreement to avoid the so called "fiscal cliff":

"Happy New Year! I wanted to take a brief moment to confirm for you that, yes, the "fiscal cliff" has been avoided. For America's seniors that means the COLA formula for Social Security will remain the same and not be changed to the "chained CPI" calculation which could have reduced Social Security benefits. It also means Medicare reimbursements to doctors will continue to flow without any reduction in payments to them, protecting seniors' access to their doctors.

"There will continue to be fiscal challenges in the months to come but for now Social Security and Medicare are good to go for 2013! As always, I will keep an eye out for protecting these programs so they can continue to serve senior citizens in the most productive and efficient way."

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