

July 27, 2022

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chairman  
House Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
House Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing over one million physician and non-physician health care professionals and providers, we appreciate Congress' 2021 year-end legislative action to mitigate scheduled cuts generated by changes within the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS). In particular, we strongly supported provisions in the "Protecting Medicare and American Farmers from Sequester Cuts Act" that provided a 3 percent positive adjustment to the MPFS conversion factor (CF) for 2022 to partially offset a scheduled reduction and averted an additional 4 percent Medicare payment reduction due to statutory pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) requirements. These critical payment reduction relief policies provided increased financial stability for Medicare clinicians and helped to ensure our nation's seniors maintained access to high-quality care, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to present numerous challenges.

Unfortunately, Medicare providers face another round of significant payment cuts on January 1, 2023. The recently released Calendar Year (CY) 2023 MPFS Proposed Rule, once again, jeopardizes the financial stability of many physician and non-physician practices by proposing to cut the Medicare conversion factor — the basic starting point for calculating Medicare payments — by approximately 4.5 percent. These cuts, combined with the pending threat of the 4 percent PAYGO reduction, are simply not sustainable. The termination of the 2 percent sequestration moratorium in July 2022 is yet another compounding negative financial factor Medicare providers must navigate.

As a result, Congress must take further action to mitigate the scheduled reductions. These year-over-year cuts clearly demonstrate that the Medicare physician payment system is broken.

Systemic issues such as the negative impact of the MPFS's budget neutrality requirements and the lack of an annual inflationary update will continue to generate significant instability for health care professionals moving forward, threatening beneficiaries' timely access to essential health care services.

Our organizations welcome the opportunity to work together to establish a pathway for identifying policy solutions that will ensure long-term stability for the MPFS, and we remain committed to partnering with Congress to identify and advance necessary reforms. However, this will require both collaboration and a significant time investment. Millions of seniors rely on the Medicare program, and we must work to ensure it remains a robust and dependable option for those who need it the most, both in the short and long term.

In conclusion, we urge Congress to expeditiously pass legislation that provides *at least* a 4.5 percent CF adjustment for 2023 and waives the 4 percent statutory PAYGO requirement. In addition to staving off these immediate cuts, the legislation should also provide a one-year inflationary update based on the Medicare Economic Index. These important policy changes will undoubtedly provide our members with crucial short-term fiscal stability while simultaneously laying the foundation for necessary long-term payment reforms.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy  
Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation  
Alliance for Recovery Care  
Alliance of Specialty Medicine  
Ambulatory Surgery Center Association  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Audiology  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of PAs  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Chiropractic Association  
American College of Cardiology

American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Group Association  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Rhinologic Society  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Breast Surgeons  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hand Therapists  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Retina Specialists  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
Association for Clinical Oncology

Association for Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers  
Association for Quality Imaging  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Black Cardiologists  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
Brain Injury Association of America  
CardioVascular Coalition  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition  
Digestive Health Physicians Association  
Emergency Department Practice Management Association  
Heart Failure Society of America  
Infusion Providers Alliance  
Large Urology Group Association  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care  
National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society  
Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association  
Radiology Business Management Association  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery  
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
United Specialists for Patient Access

CC: US House of Representatives  
US Senate