

May 3, 2023

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD  
United States House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD  
United States House of Representatives  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD  
United States House of Representatives  
172 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD  
United States House of Representatives  
1034 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Ruiz, Bucshon, Bera and Miller-Meeks:

On behalf of the undersigned physician and non-physician organizations, representing more than one million clinicians and the patients they serve, thank you for introducing H.R. 2474, the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act. The legislation applies a permanent inflation-based update to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) conversion factor, which will provide much-needed stability to the Medicare payment system as our members contend with an increasingly challenging environment providing Medicare beneficiaries with access to timely and quality care.

Congress has taken action to mitigate some of the recent MPFS cuts on a temporary basis, however, reimbursement continues to decline. According to an American Medical Association analysis of Medicare Trustees data, when adjusted for inflation, Medicare payments to clinicians have declined by 26% from 2001-2023<sup>1</sup>. The failure of the MPFS to keep pace with the true cost of providing care, combined with year-over-year cuts resulting from the application of budget neutrality, sequestration, and a paucity of available alternative payment model/value-based care models, clearly demonstrates the Medicare payment system is broken. The addition of an inflationary update will provide budgetary stability as clinicians-many of whom are small business owners-contend with a wide range of shifting economic factors, such as increasing administrative burdens, staff salaries, office rent and purchasing of essential technology.

Congress has a unique opportunity to adopt comprehensive, transformative reforms to the Medicare payment system and we applaud your leadership in introducing this legislation. We look forward to working with Congress to ensure passage of H.R. 2474 and continue conversations around further payment reform to ensure America's seniors continue to receive access to the high-quality care they deserve.

Thank you,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/medicare-updates-inflation-chart.pdf>; <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/medicare-updates-inflation-chart-cumulative.pdf>

Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy  
ADVION (Formerly the National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL))  
Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation  
Alliance for Recovery Care  
Alliance of Specialty Medicine  
Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders  
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 Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of Hip & Knee Surgeons  
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 Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons  
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 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  
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 Services  
American Rhinologic Society  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand Professional Organization  
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 Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology  
American Society of General Surgeons  
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 Quality Imaging  
Association of Black Cardiologists  
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists  
Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
Association of Women in Rheumatology  
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  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Infusion Providers Alliance  
Large Urology Group Practice Association  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association of Rehab Providers & Agencies  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
National Center for Assisted Living  
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  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
United Specialists for Patient Access  
US Oncology Network

CC: The Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Mike Crapo, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Jason Smith, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Richie Neal, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means