



May 20, 2020

The Honorable Brad Schneider  
United States House of Representatives  
1432 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ron Kind  
United States House of Representatives  
1502 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider and Kind:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 136,700 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to share our organization's support for your legislation, the *Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payments Improvement Act*. This legislation is one important way that Congress can provide immediate financial relief to family physician practices that have been critically disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment (AAP) program — which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) unexpectedly halted for Medicare Part B providers — provided necessary advance payments to physicians. Though flawed, the program allowed primary care physicians to stem some of the losses they have experienced while continuing to pay staff and see patients. Stopping AAP has hindered primary care physicians' ability to maintain practice operations in the midst of this pandemic. Your legislation restoring the program for Part B providers, and extending and improving its repayment terms, would create a lifeline by enabling more vulnerable primary care practices to take advantage of the program.

Data suggest that Americans' health and well-being are in jeopardy if Congress and the administration do not act now to put primary care on a more sustainable path. According to a recent survey<sup>1</sup>, 47% of primary care clinicians report having laid off or furloughed staff, two-thirds report that less than half of what they do is reimbursable, and 45% are unsure if they have the funds to stay open for the next four weeks.

Your targeted and timely legislation, along with additional financial support for primary care clinicians, will help stabilize our nation's primary care infrastructure and preserve critical health care access for Americans in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the future.

We are pleased to support this important legislation and look forward to working with you to ensure its passage. If you have any questions, please contact Erica Cischke, [ecischke@aafp.org](mailto:ecischke@aafp.org).

Sincerely,

---

## STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

### President

Gary LeRoy, MD  
Dayton, OH

### President-elect

Ada Stewart, MD  
Columbia, SC

### Board Chair

John Cullen, MD  
Valdez, AK

### Directors

Sterling Ransone, MD, *Deltaville, VA*  
Windel Stracener, MD, *Richmond, IN*  
Erica Swegler MD, *Austin, TX*  
James Elzy, MD, *Washington, DC*  
Dennis Gingrich, MD, *Hershey, PA*  
Tochi Iroku-Malize, MD, *Bay Shore, NY*

Andrew Carroll, MD, *Chandler, AZ*  
Steven Furr, MD, *Jackson, AL*  
Margot Savoy, MD, *Media, PA*

Brent Sugimoto, MD (New Physician Member), *Richmond, CA*  
Kelly Thibert, DO, MPH (Resident Member), *Columbus, OH*  
Margaret Miller (Student Member), *Johnson City, TN*

### Speaker

Alan Schwartzstein, MD  
Oregon, WI

### Vice Speaker

Russell Kohl, MD  
Stilwell, KS

### Executive Vice President

Douglas E. Henley, MD  
Leawood, KS



John Cullen, M.D.  
Board Chair

---

<sup>1</sup> Etz, Rebecca: "Quick COVID-19 Primary Care Survey" <https://www.pcpcc.org/2020/04/23/primary-care-covid19-week-6-survey>

---

**STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA**

**President**

Gary LeRoy, MD  
Dayton, OH

**President-elect**

Ada Stewart, MD  
Columbia, SC

**Board Chair**

John Cullen, MD  
Valdez, AK

**Directors**

Sterling Ransone, MD, *Deltaville, VA*  
Windel Stracener, MD, *Richmond, IN*  
Erica Swegler MD, *Austin, TX*  
James Elzy, MD, *Washington, DC*  
Dennis Gingrich, MD, *Hershey, PA*  
Tochi Iroku-Malize, MD, *Bay Shore, NY*

Andrew Carroll, MD, *Chandler, AZ*  
Steven Furr, MD, *Jackson, AL*  
Margot Savoy, MD, *Media, PA*

**Speaker**

Alan Schwartzstein, MD  
Oregon, WI

**Vice Speaker**

Russell Kohl, MD  
Stilwell, KS

**Executive Vice President**

Douglas E. Henley, MD  
Leawood, KS

Brent Sugimoto, MD (New Physician Member), *Richmond, CA*  
Kelly Thibert, DO, MPH (Resident Member), *Columbus, OH*  
Margaret Miller (Student Member), *Johnson City, TN*