



June 3, 2019

Congresswoman Abby Finkenauer (IA-01)
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

RE: Family Physicians Support the *Keep Physicians Serving Patients Act* of 2019

Dear Congresswoman Finkenauer:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 134,600 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to offer our support for the *Keep Physicians Serving Patients Act* of 2019.

As introduced, this bill would improve the accuracy of and update the data used to calculate Medicare's practice expense (PE) and physician work geographic practice cost indexes (GPCIs). The AAFP believes the bill would help address the shortage of physicians practicing in rural areas and thereby improve access to Medicare services for rural patients. The bill is supportable from a family medicine perspective and its enactment would greatly benefit rural family physicians and their patients.

It is the AAFP policy's on [Medicare Payment](#) to support the elimination of all geographic adjustment factors from the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule except for those designed to achieve a specific public policy goal (e.g., to encourage physicians to practice in underserved areas). GPCI floors reduce the geographic variations in Medicare payments, a step toward the elimination of geographic modifiers for which the AAFP advocates. We are particularly pleased that Section 3 of the bill increases the physician wage and practice expense GPCIs to 1.0 for any locality that would otherwise have an index value below that level.

The AAFP stands ready to work with your office to support passage of this important legislation.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment. Please contact Eric Waskowicz, Legislative and Policy Strategist, at 202-655-4903 ewaskowiz@aafp.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Munger, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

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