

September 30, 2022

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
172 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bera and Bucshon,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing over one million physician and non-physician health care clinicians, we applaud the introduction of H.R. 8800, the *Supporting Medicare Providers Act of 2022*. This critical legislation provides a 4.42% positive adjustment to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) conversion factor (CF) for CY2023, thereby mitigating payment cuts within the MPFS that are anticipated to take effect on January 1, 2023. We look forward to working with you to ensure this legislation is enacted before the end of the year.

As you are aware, without Congressional action, the entire healthcare clinician community faces a cumulative payment reduction of approximately 8.5%, which includes both the CF changes, as well as a 4% Medicare cut stemming from the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) Act. The 2% Medicare sequestration cuts that fully resumed earlier this year further exacerbates these payment reductions.

Additionally, the MPFS is the only payment system within Medicare without an annual inflationary update. This is particularly destabilizing as clinicians, many of whom are small business owners, contend with a wide range of shifting economic factors when determining their ability to provide care to Medicare beneficiaries. According to an American Medical Association analysis of Medicare Trustees data, when adjusted for inflation, Medicare physician payments have *declined* by 22% from 2001–2021.

The long-term consequence of failing to avert the cuts is less patient access to care. In fact, the 2021 Medicare Trustees Report expressed concern that, although the physician payment system put in place in 2015 avoided the significant short-range physician payment issues, it “nevertheless raises important long-range concerns that will almost certainly need to be addressed by future legislation.” The Trustees further stated, “In addition, the law specifies the physician payment updates for all years in the future, and these updates do not vary based on underlying economic conditions, nor are they expected to keep pace with the average rate of physician cost increases. Absent a change in the delivery system or level of update by subsequent legislation, the Trustees expect access to Medicare-participating physicians to become a significant issue in the long-term.”

As a result, our organizations strongly support H.R. 8800 as an essential step toward providing clinicians with financial stability and ensuring patients have access to critical services our members provide. Moving forward, we reiterate our commitment to working with you and your Congressional colleagues to identify and advance systemic Medicare payment reforms designed to ensure longer-term stability for clinicians, promote and reward value-based care, advance health equity and reduce disparities within the Medicare system.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue.

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 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 Physical Medicine and 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 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, Inc.  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons  
American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hand Therapists  
American Society of Nephrology

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 American Medical Colleges  
Association of Black Cardiologists  
Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers  
Brain Injury Association of America  
California Medical Association  
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  
Large Urology Group Practice Association  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA)  
Medical Group Management Association  
Medical Society of the State of New York  
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care  
National Association of Rehab Providers & Agencies  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
National Center for Assisted Living  
Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society  
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  
Texas Medical Association  
The American Society of Breast Surgeons  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
United Specialists for Patient Access  
US Oncology Network  
Washington State Medical Association