

February 22, 2021

United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Members of the 117th Congress,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing a broad range of physician and non-physician providers, welcome to the 117th Congress. Our organizations and collective memberships, representing over *one million* health care providers, remain committed to assisting Congress in the nation's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and implementing reforms to the Medicare system to ensure patient access and improved outcomes.

During the final days of the 116th Congress, a broad bipartisan effort helped ensure language was included in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (P.L. 116-260) that alleviated devastating payment cuts to providers across the health care delivery system set to take effect under the 2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS). This bipartisan effort avoided significant disruptions to care for Medicare beneficiaries, reduced the level of 2021 cuts to many providers, supported small health care businesses — especially in rural and underserved areas — and provided a lifeline for health care providers who are still reeling from the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Our members are truly grateful for the work of the 116th Congress that mitigated these cuts during a global pandemic.

As you begin your work in the 117th Congress, we want to call your attention to the continued critical need for reforms to the Medicare system and additional work required to resolve deficiencies in the MPFS, including addressing the budget neutrality requirement which can lead to arbitrary reductions to reimbursement unrelated to the cost of providing care. The primary goal of the MPFS must be to encourage broad participation of health care providers to deliver appropriate and timely quality care to meet the health needs of Medicare beneficiaries. A secondary goal of the fee schedule should be to reflect the modern health care delivery system in which different health care professionals work collaboratively to advance appropriate health outcomes for their patients. Unfortunately, these goals are not reflected given that there are additional scheduled deep cuts to providers who are reimbursed under the MPFS for 2022, 2023 and 2024 that will negatively impact patient care and diminish practitioners' small businesses, further slowing our nation's health and economic recovery from the pandemic. We urge Congress to consider additional policy options in the year ahead to address these shortcomings.

If you have any questions or comments related to this request, please contact Cynthia Moran (ACR, cmoran@acr.org), Katie Orrico (AANS, korrico@neurosurgery.org) or Justin Elliott (APTA, justinelliott@apta.org).

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation
American Academy of Audiology
American Academy of Dental Group Practice

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
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 Anesthetists
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American Chiropractic Association
American Cochlear Implant Alliance
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Radiation Oncology
American College of Radiology
American College of Surgeons
American Health Care Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Optometric Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological 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 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 Transplant Surgeons
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Urogynecologic Society
American Urological Association
Association for Quality Imaging
Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers
Brain Injury Association of America
CardioVascular Coalition
Clinical Social Work Association

College of American Pathologists
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition
Digestive Health Physicians Association
Emergency Department Practice 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
National Center for Assisted Living
Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association
Radiology Business Management Association
Select Medical
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
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:

The Honorable Charles Schumer
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy