

November 15, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The undersigned national medical societies and state medical associations write to urgently request that Congress pass legislation to both prevent the scheduled 2.83 percent Medicare physician payment cut and, critically, provide a positive payment update for 2025. Absent Congressional intervention, this most recent cut, which was finalized in the November 1<sup>st</sup> Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) Final Rule, marks the fifth consecutive year of reductions in Medicare physician payments. Without federal legislation that provides a payment increase reflecting rising inflationary pressures, patient access will suffer and the sustainability of physician practices across the country, particularly in rural and underserved communities, will be threatened.

The recently finalized MPFS rule underscores the severity of this issue: while the Medicare Economic Index (MEI)—the measure for physician practice cost inflation—will increase by 3.5 percent, physicians will not receive an update reflective of inflation. Conversely, Medicare payments to physicians actually *declined* by 29% over the last two decades, when adjusted for inflation in practice costs. Without Congressional intervention, this imbalance will deepen the gap between rising practice costs and Medicare reimbursement, straining the ability of practices to remain viable and serve their Medicare patients.

In October, 233 of your colleagues from both parties signed a Dear Colleague letter led by Representatives Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD<sup>1</sup> (R-IA) and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)<sup>2</sup> urging

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<sup>1</sup> <https://millermeeks.house.gov/media/press-releases/miller-meeks-leads-232-house-members-address-doc-cuts-2025>

<sup>2</sup> <https://panetta.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-panetta-leads-232-house-members-urging-action-address-doc-cuts-2025>

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expeditious Congressional action to address these concerns. The letter emphasized the urgent need to stop the approximately 2.83 percent payment cut, reform budget neutrality requirements, and provide a payment increase that accounts for inflationary pressures in 2025. The strong, bipartisan support generated by the October letter reflects a shared commitment within Congress to safeguard Medicare and ensure seniors retain access to care.

Thankfully, a strong collection of bipartisan lawmakers has introduced a legislative solution to this time-sensitive Medicare payment problem. The undersigned organizations strongly support H.R. 10073, the Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act of 2024<sup>3</sup>. This bipartisan bill would replace the 2.83 percent cut with a 1.8 percent payment update, which is equivalent to half of the MEI increase forecasted for 2025. This update is the same amount recommended by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) to avoid problems with patient access to care in the Medicare program forecasted under the current payment system. By securing a positive update that aligns with a portion of rising practice expenses, Congress can provide essential stability for physicians in 2025 allowing time for comprehensive reform to the Medicare physician payment system to begin in earnest in the 119th Congress.

We urge Congress to pass H.R. 10073 before the conclusion of the 118th Congress. This legislation will serve as a bridge to broader reform while averting an impending cut that threatens both practice solvency and patient access to care. As always, our organizations are ready to work alongside Congress to achieve lasting reforms that ensure a stable and equitable Medicare payment system.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association  
Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Emergency Medicine  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head & Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pain Medicine

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<sup>3</sup> <https://murphy.house.gov/media/press-releases/murphy-introduces-bipartisan-legislation-protect-medicare-physicians-and>

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American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Association for Hand Surgery  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodagnostic Medicine  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST)  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Legal Medicine  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
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 Geriatrics Society  
American Medical Group Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Laser Medicine & Surgery, Inc.  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine

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American Society of Retina Specialists  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
American Venous Forum  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Endocrine Society  
Heart Rhythm Society  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Pain and Spine Intervention Society  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
National Medical Association  
North American Neuromodulation Society  
North American Spine Society  
Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society  
Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medical Association  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Pediatric Dermatology  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)  
Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
The American Society of Dermatopathology  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Medical Association of the State of Alabama  
Alaska State Medical Association  
Arizona Medical Association  
Arkansas Medical Society  
California Medical Association  
Colorado Medical Society

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Connecticut State Medical Society  
Medical Society of Delaware  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
Florida Medical Association  
Medical Association Georgia  
Hawaii Medical Association  
Idaho Medical Association  
Illinois State Medical Society  
Indiana State Medical Association  
Iowa Medical Society  
Kansas Medical Society  
Kentucky Medical Association  
Louisiana State Medical Society  
Maine Medical Association  
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Michigan State Medical Society  
Minnesota Medical Association  
Mississippi State Medical Association  
Missouri State Medical Association  
Montana Medical Association  
Nebraska Medical Association  
Nevada State Medical Association  
New Hampshire Medical Society  
Medical Society of New Jersey  
New Mexico Medical Society  
Medical Society of the State of New York  
North Carolina Medical Society  
North Dakota Medical Association  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Oklahoma State Medical Association  
Oregon Medical Association  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Rhode Island Medical Society  
South Carolina Medical Association  
South Dakota State Medical Association  
Tennessee Medical Association

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Texas Medical Association  
Utah Medical Association  
Vermont Medical Society  
The Medical Society of Virginia  
Washington State Medical Association  
West Virginia State Medical Association  
Wisconsin Medical Society  
Wyoming Medical Society