

April 19, 2023

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
United States House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon  
United States House of Representatives  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera  
United States House of Representatives  
172 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks  
United States House of Representatives  
1034 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Ruiz, Bucshon, Bera, and Miller-Meeks:

The undersigned national physician specialty societies and state medical associations commend you for introducing H.R. 2474, the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act. This bipartisan legislation advances the ongoing need to provide financial stability to physician practices in order to preserve access to care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Providing an annual inflation update equal to the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) for Medicare physician payments is essential to enabling physician practices to better absorb payment distributions triggered by budget neutrality rules, performance adjustments, and periods of high inflation. It will also help physicians invest in their practices and implement new strategies to provide high-value care.

The annual “stop the Medicare payment cut” exercises are due, in no small part, to the fact that physician services do not receive the annual inflationary update that virtually all other Medicare providers can rely on to better weather periods of fiscal uncertainty. The COVID-19 pandemic further illustrated the challenges physicians endure due to the current broken Medicare payment system. While the temporary and partial patches that Congress has provided through 2024 were necessary under the current payment system, they are a distraction, exacerbate budgeting challenges for practices, and divert resources that both medicine and Congress could be spending on other meaningful health care policies and innovations. Therefore, organized medicine is united in support of a long-term payment solution that centers on annual inflationary updates.

Once again, we sincerely appreciate your leadership in introducing H.R. 2474, as this legislation promotes this key element of any comprehensive, meaningful Medicare physician payment reform plan. We look forward to working with you on this legislation to advance it through the House and Senate during the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association  
AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology

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American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Association for Hand Surgery  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinology  
American Association of Clinical Urologists, Inc.  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Chest Physicians  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Lifestyle Medicine  
American College of Medical Genetics & Genomics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Medical Group Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Society of Retina Specialists  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Endocrine Society  
Heart Rhythm Society  
International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery  
Medical Group Management Association

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National Association of Medical Examiners  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
North American Neuromodulation Society  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Pediatric Dermatology  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons  
Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging  
Spine Intervention Society  
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  
Connecticut State Medical Society  
Medical Society of Delaware  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
Florida Medical Association  
Medical Association of 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

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

Cc: The Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Mike Crapo, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Jason Smith, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Richie Neal, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means