May 3, 2023

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD  
172 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD  
1034 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support of H.R. 2474, the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act

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

As patient and physician advocates, the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance) writes in support of your legislation, H.R. 2474, the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act, which would provide an annual inflationary update for Medicare physician payment tied to the Medicare Economic Index (MEI).

The Alliance represents more than 100,000 specialty physicians and is deeply committed to improving access to specialty medical care through the advancement of sound health policy. The Alliance is supportive of Congress taking immediate steps to stabilize Medicare physician reimbursements and appreciates your acknowledgement that a permanent solution is necessary to address the systemic issues with the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS).

As you know, Medicare physician reimbursement has failed to keep pace with rising inflation, leading to inadequate reimbursement. The Alliance is reassured that your legislation seeks to address underlying issues with the MPFS and ensure financial stability and predictability in the flawed physician payment system.

The layers of cuts imposed on physicians due to the applicable statutes create immense challenges in maintaining solvent practices, retaining and recruiting qualified staff, and ensuring patient access to health care. Because of the year-over-year reductions in Medicare reimbursements over the past several
years, more and more physician practices have been forced to take drastic measures, such as limiting the number of Medicare patients they see, consolidating with larger hospital or health care systems, which increases costs to the Medicare program, or retiring early and permanently closing their doors.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you to address this serious problem and strengthen the Medicare program and patient access to providers.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Retina Specialists
American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Association of Spine Specialists
Society of Interventional Radiology