



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

March 12, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 1868, a bill to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of physicians and other health providers during the public health emergency. The Alliance of Specialty Medicine represents more than 100,000 specialty physicians and is dedicated to the development of sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. We write in support of H.R. 1868 and urge you to act quickly to extend the moratorium on the Medicare sequester and act to prevent mandatory PAYGO cuts, including 4% Medicare spending sequestration, stemming from the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*.

We appreciate that Congress acted to temporarily suspend the 2% Medicare sequestration cuts through March 2021. A further extension of this moratorium is critical for providers struggling financially to focus on maintaining care for their patients during the pandemic instead of on their bottom-line. In addition, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently determined that the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* would trigger the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO) and cause Medicare spending reductions of an estimated 4%, or \$36 billion, next year. The Alliance strongly opposes these arbitrary across-the-board Medicare fee cuts and asks that Congress take immediate steps to prevent the PAYGO reductions from taking effect.

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American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive 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 & 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

Our provider community continues to experience severe financial losses due to the drastic decreases in non-COVID-related and non-emergency care. Additionally, even though physician practices continue to experience significantly reduced patient volume, they have also incurred large expenses to ensure that they can safely accommodate patients in need of care. We stand ready to work with you to extend critical financial relief to providers and to delay cuts to Medicare reimbursement during this public health emergency.

Sincerely,

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
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National Association of Spine Specialists

CC: The Honorable John Yarmuth
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
The Honorable Richard E. Neal

The Honorable Jason Smith
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
The Honorable Kevin Brady