



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

December 21, 2022

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

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Medicare Physician Payment**

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leaders McCarthy and McConnell:

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine is dismayed that Congress is about to enact legislation that will result in a 2% Medicare physician pay cut in 2023. As specialty physicians who collectively and continually care for the many patients suffering from COVID-19, and who are part of a workforce coping with high inflation and labor costs, we question how such a cut is possibly justified. We are profoundly disappointed and concerned with the provisions to address Medicare physician payment in the Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations legislation released this week. We urge you to take immediate action to stabilize Medicare physician payment by fully averting the 4.47% cut to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) conversion factor and commit to working toward a more permanent solution to address the systemic issues with the MPFS that lead to this annual issue.

Our provider community continues to experience severe financial losses due to drastic decreases in non-COVID-related and non-emergency care. Additionally, physician practices continue to experience significantly reduced patient volume and are incurring large expenses to ensure that they can safely accommodate patients in need of care. It has been well documented to this Congress that despite enduring the same inflation rates as hospitals and other medical facilities, physicians are threatened with cuts rather than positive adjustments that account for rising inflation.

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American Society of Retina Specialists • American Urological Association • Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons • National Association of Spine Specialists

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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, to include limiting the number of Medicare patients they see, consolidating with larger hospital or health care systems, which increases costs to the Medicare program, or worse, retiring early and permanently closing their doors.

Earlier this year, Congress reinstated a 2% sequester on physicians. And, although we appreciate that the 4% PAYGO cut is delayed in the omnibus, we note that the burden is merely shifted to 2025. As such, **we urge you to fully address the impending 4.47% cut in the Omnibus Appropriations before adjourning the 117th Congress.**

Sincerely,

Alliance of Specialty Medicine