



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

December 16, 2022

The Honorable John Kennedy
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support of **S. 5194, the *Protecting Medicare Patients and Physicians Act***

Dear Senator Kennedy:

The undersigned organizations of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (the "Alliance") write in support of the ***Protecting Medicare Patients and Physicians Act (S. 5194)***. The Alliance is supportive of Congress taking immediate steps to stabilize Medicare physician reimbursements and appreciates your acknowledgement that more permanent solutions to address the systemic issues with the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) policies must be pursued.

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 ***Protecting Medicare Patients and Physicians Act (S. 5194)*** would stabilize the harmful Medicare payment cuts to physicians by averting the nearly 4.5% cut to the MPFS conversion factor set to go into effect in January and for one year exempting Medicare programs from the 4% statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO) sequester stemming from passage of the *American Rescue Plan Act*.

As you know, Medicare physician reimbursement has failed to keep pace with rising inflation, leading to inadequate reimbursement. The Alliance is reassured that this bill, like H.R. 8800, includes *Sense of Congress* language acknowledging the need to address underlying issues with the MPFS, including to ensure a commitment to the financial stability and predictability in MPFS; promote and reward value-based care innovation; and to safeguard timely access to high-quality care by advancing health equity and reducing disparities. Policy modifications are needed to provide specialty physicians with critical short-term stability as Congress works on a permanent and meaningful solution to the flawed physician payment system.

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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 & 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

Alliance of Specialty Medicine

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The Alliance supports bipartisan congressional action to fully address the impending cuts to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and looks forward to working with Congress to implement additional solutions related to Medicare payment to physicians. We would be happy to discuss these important issues with you or answer any other questions. We can be reached at info@specialtydocs.org.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
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