

November 21, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer Senate Majority Leader United States Senate Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Mitch McConnell Senate Minority Leader United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write to request that you urgently address the 2.8 percent cut to Medicare payments that will go into effect on January 1, 2025. Failure to address these cuts will threaten the continued ability of physicians and other healthcare providers to care for their patients.

On November 1, 2024, the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Calendar Year 2025 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) Final Rule, which includes provisions subjecting all physicians and other clinicians treating Medicare patients in the outpatient setting to a 2.8 percent payment cut. The scheduled cut represents the fifth consecutive year that CMS has issued a fee schedule lowering payments to physicians and other clinicians.

Persistent instability in the health care sector—due, in part, to consistent payment cuts —impacts the ability of physicians and clinicians to provide the highest quality of care. These continued payment cuts undermine the ability of independent clinical practices—especially in rural and underserved areas—to care for their communities. Some practices have limited the number of Medicare patients they see, or the types of services offered.

In addition to addressing the looming 2.8 percent payment cut, Congress must develop long-term legislative solutions to reform the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), such as enacting targeted reforms to statutory budget neutrality requirements and payment updates reflective of inflationary pressures. These efforts are critical to supporting patient access to high-quality Medicare-covered services and bolstering our healthcare workforce.

On behalf of patients and healthcare providers, we look forward to working together to address the 2.8 percent payment cut and create stability in the Medicare program for our nation's seniors.

We appreciate your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

John Boozman

United States Senator

Peter Welch

United States Senator

Welch



James Lankford United States Senator

Alex Padilla

Alex Padilla United States Senator Richard Blumenthal United States Senator

Wiled Blomes

James E. Risch United States Senator

Cory Booker United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar United States Senator Raphael Warnock United States Senator

R.,UBW-E

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan United States Senator Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen

United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand United States Senator

Kevin Cramer United States Senator

Chris Coons
United States Senator

Angus S. King Jr. United States Senator

Rand Paul

United States Senator

John Barrasso, M.D. United States Senator

Laphonza Butler United States Senator Mark Kelly

United States Senator

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen

Jeanne Shaheen United States Senator

United States Senator

Thom Tillis

Katie Boyd Britt United States Senator

M. Michael Rounds United States Senator Lisa Murkowski United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth United States Senator Gary Peters United States Senator Lucan M. Collins
Susan M. Collins

Susan M. Collins United States Senator Deb Fischer United States Senator

Jack Reed

United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow

United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen

United States Senator

Roger F. Wicker

United States Senator

Shelley Moore Capito United States Senator

John Hoeven

United States Senator

Martin Heinrich

United States Senator