

February 22, 2021

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Dear Members of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing a broad range of physician and non-physician providers, congratulations on your election to the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. Our organizations and collective memberships, representing over *one million* health care providers, remain committed to assisting Congress in the nation's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and implementing reforms to the Medicare system to ensure patient access and improved outcomes.

During the final days of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, a broad bipartisan effort helped ensure language was included in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (P.L. 116-260) that alleviated devastating payment cuts to providers across the health care delivery system set to take effect under the 2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS). This bipartisan effort avoided significant disruptions to care for Medicare beneficiaries, reduced the level of 2021 cuts to many providers, supported small health care businesses — especially in rural and underserved areas — and provided a lifeline for health care providers who are still reeling from the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Our members are truly grateful for the work of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress that mitigated these cuts during a global pandemic.

As you begin your work in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, we want to call your attention to the continued critical need for reforms to the Medicare system and additional work required to resolve deficiencies in the MPFS, including addressing the budget neutrality requirement which can lead to arbitrary reductions to reimbursement unrelated to the cost of providing care. The primary goal of the MPFS must be to encourage broad participation of health care providers to deliver appropriate and timely quality care to meet the health needs of Medicare beneficiaries. A secondary goal of the fee schedule should be to reflect the modern health care delivery system in which different health care professionals work collaboratively to advance appropriate health outcomes for their patients. Unfortunately, these goals are not reflected given that there are additional scheduled deep cuts to providers who are reimbursed under the MPFS for 2022, 2023 and 2024 that will negatively impact patient care and diminish practitioners' small businesses, further slowing our nation's health and economic recovery from the pandemic. We urge Congress to consider additional policy options in the year ahead to address these shortcomings.

If you have any questions or comments related to this request, please contact Cynthia Moran (ACR, [cmoran@acr.org](mailto:cmoran@acr.org)), Katie Orrico (AANS, [korrico@neurosurgery.org](mailto:korrico@neurosurgery.org)) or Justin Elliott (APTA, [justinelliott@apta.org](mailto:justinelliott@apta.org)).

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation  
American Academy of Audiology  
American Academy of Dental Group Practice

American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing  
American Chiropractic Association  
American Cochlear Implant Alliance  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Health Care Association  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Breast Surgeons  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hand Therapists  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
Association for Quality Imaging  
Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers  
Brain Injury Association of America  
CardioVascular Coalition  
Clinical Social Work Association

College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition  
Digestive Health Physicians Association  
Emergency Department Practice Management Association  
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care  
National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
National Center for Assisted Living  
Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association  
Radiology Business Management Association  
Select Medical  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery  
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
United Specialists for Patient Access

Cc:

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

February 22, 2021

United States Senate  
Washington, DC

Dear Members of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing a broad range of physician and non-physician providers, welcome to the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. Our organizations and collective memberships, representing over *one million* health care providers, remain committed to assisting Congress in the nation's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and implementing reforms to the Medicare system to ensure patient access and improved outcomes.

During the final days of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, a broad bipartisan effort helped ensure language was included in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (P.L. 116-260) that alleviated devastating payment cuts to providers across the health care delivery system set to take effect under the 2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS). This bipartisan effort avoided significant disruptions to care for Medicare beneficiaries, reduced the level of 2021 cuts to many providers, supported small health care businesses — especially in rural and underserved areas — and provided a lifeline for health care providers who are still reeling from the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Our members are truly grateful for the work of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress that mitigated these cuts during a global pandemic.

As you begin your work in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, we want to call your attention to the continued critical need for reforms to the Medicare system and additional work required to resolve deficiencies in the MPFS, including addressing the budget neutrality requirement which can lead to arbitrary reductions to reimbursement unrelated to the cost of providing care. The primary goal of the MPFS must be to encourage broad participation of health care providers to deliver appropriate and timely quality care to meet the health needs of Medicare beneficiaries. A secondary goal of the fee schedule should be to reflect the modern health care delivery system in which different health care professionals work collaboratively to advance appropriate health outcomes for their patients. Unfortunately, these goals are not reflected given that there are additional scheduled deep cuts to providers who are reimbursed under the MPFS for 2022, 2023 and 2024 that will negatively impact patient care and diminish practitioners' small businesses, further slowing our nation's health and economic recovery from the pandemic. We urge Congress to consider additional policy options in the year ahead to address these shortcomings.

If you have any questions or comments related to this request, please contact Cynthia Moran (ACR, [cmoran@acr.org](mailto:cmoran@acr.org)), Katie Orrico (AANS, [korrico@neurosurgery.org](mailto:korrico@neurosurgery.org)) or Justin Elliott (APTA, [justinelliott@apta.org](mailto:justinelliott@apta.org)).

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation  
American Academy of Audiology  
American Academy of Dental Group Practice

American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing  
American Chiropractic Association  
American Cochlear Implant Alliance  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Health Care Association  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Breast Surgeons  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hand Therapists  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
Association for Quality Imaging  
Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers  
Brain Injury Association of America  
CardioVascular Coalition  
Clinical Social Work Association

College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition  
Digestive Health Physicians Association  
Emergency Department Practice Management Association  
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care  
National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
National Center for Assisted Living  
Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association  
Radiology Business Management Association  
Select Medical  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery  
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
United Specialists for Patient Access

Cc:

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy