

February 25, 2022

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chairman  
House Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
House Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing over *one million* physician and non-physician health care clinicians, we respectfully request that your committees collaborate with the provider community to immediately initiate formal proceedings (hearing, roundtables, expert panels, etc.) to discuss potential reforms to the Medicare physician payment system to ensure continued beneficiary access to care.

We appreciate Congress' actions over the last several years to mitigate scheduled cuts to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS). However, systemic issues such as the negative impact of the Medicare physician fee schedule's budget neutrality requirements and the lack of an annual inflationary update will continue to generate significant instability for health care clinicians moving forward, threatening beneficiary access to essential health care services. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these existing issues. Furthermore, challenges associated with the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act's (MACRA) Quality Payment Program (QPP) have prevented most clinicians from meaningfully participating in the program. For example, non-physician clinicians are still not fully integrated in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) because most are ineligible to report cost and promoting interoperability measures which account for 55% of MIPS scoring. The incentive payments have also been historically low, far below the 9% Congress intended, rendering them an ineffective mechanism to offset the reductions required by budget neutrality. Therefore, improving MIPS and Alternative Payment Models, including extending the current incentives for participating in Advanced APMS, is also essential.

Under the current payment system, many health care clinicians continue to face steep annual reductions in their Medicare payments. The inherent instability of the MPFS, coupled with the shortcomings of MACRA's QPP, has created an environment where many practices have seen their payments decrease year-over-year, despite increasing costs and growing inflation.

Building on the broad bipartisan and bicameral support for recent efforts to mitigate steep payment cuts, our organizations welcome the opportunity to work together to establish a pathway for identifying policy solutions that will ensure long-term stability for the MPFS. Millions of seniors rely on the Medicare program, and we must work to ensure it remains a robust and dependable option for those who need it the most. We remain committed to partnering with Congress to identify and advance necessary reforms and appreciate your continued support of the health care clinicians on whom many Americans rely.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation  
Alliance for Recovery Care  
Alliance of Specialty Medicine  
Ambulatory Surgery Center Association  
American Academy of Audiology  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association of Clinical Urologists  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Chiropractic Association  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Health Care Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Group Association  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Rhinologic Society  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery 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 Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of General Surgeons  
American Society of Hand Therapists  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Retina Specialists  
American Speech–Language–Hearing Association  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
American Vein & Lymphatic Society  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association for Quality Imaging  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
CardioVascular Coalition  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition  
Digestive Health Physicians Association  
Heart Failure Society of America  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Infusion Providers Alliance  
Large Urology Group Practice Association  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care  
National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies  
National Association of Spine Specialists

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc  
National Center for Assisted Living  
Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society  
Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association  
Radiology Business Management Association  
Renal Physicians Association  
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:

U.S. Senate

U.S. House of Representatives