

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We urgently request that you address the impending cuts in the CY21 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule in any legislation moving through the House before the end of the year in an effort to avert yet another health care crisis.

This week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the CY21 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) final rule. We appreciate the increased payments in the PFS to physicians delivering primary care and complex office-based care. Unfortunately, due to the budget neutral nature of the fee schedule, many specialists will now encounter severe reimbursement cuts starting on January 1, 2021.

Health care providers have faced extensive challenges during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Following the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration, the U.S. Surgeon General and CMS urged the cancellation of all “non-essential” medical procedures. As some of our providers faced COVID-19 on the front lines, others were told to suspend the services that comprise most of their revenue.

Health care providers are now facing financial distress that may lead to office closures or reduced staffing nationwide due to unprecedented low patient volumes. This will dramatically limit patient access to care during the public health emergency and beyond.

Physician Members of Congress reached across the aisle to develop bipartisan solutions to address these upcoming reimbursement cuts, which would provide stability for health care providers as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

One proposed potential solution to this crisis, H.R. 8702, would hold any codes receiving a cut harmless for two years through Treasury general revenues. Another possible solution, H.R. 8505, would provide a one-year waiver of budget neutrality adjustments under the PFS, utilizing unobligated funds under the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund as the pay for.

We encourage you to consider these bills, or alternative shorter-term solutions if necessary, that also mitigate cuts but maintain payment increases for primary care and complex office-based care, to address this pending crisis by the end of this calendar year. We stand ready to work with you towards a solution that will protect patient access to care.

As Members of Congress who directly care for patients, we understand the consequences that the upcoming reimbursement cuts will have on patient care and patient access to care. We look forward to working with you to prevent the harm that will inevitably arise if the impending cuts in the PFS go into effect on January 1, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,



David P. Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



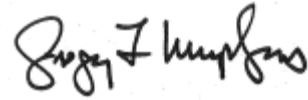
A. Drew Ferguson IV, DMD
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John Joyce, M.D.
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Mark E. Green, M.D.
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Brian Babin, D.D.S.
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