

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
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:

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we want to thank you for your efforts to ensure access to health care for patients and to ensure that physicians and specialists around the country have been able to continue operations during this pandemic. However, we are becoming increasingly concerned about looming cuts facing many specialists, which are expected to go into effect beginning on January 1, 2021.

On December 1, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) published the final rule for the CY2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, which increased rates for the office-based evaluation and management (E/M) code set in CY2021. Due to the requirement for budget neutrality, this will result in sizable cuts for over thirty healthcare specialties. While we are supportive of the increases for the office-based E/M code set, the resulting cuts are ill-conceived in the middle of a pandemic. Even without these cuts, too many practices are struggling, even as patients need access to health care now more than ever.

We are aware of solutions to either waive budget neutrality requirements (H.R. 8505) or to hold specialists harmless (H.R. 8702). While not perfect, either of these solutions would give healthcare specialists the financial security they need to weather the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, we urge you to include a provision in the end of year spending package to prevent these reckless cuts from taking effect, while allowing the increases to proceed as scheduled on January 1, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If we can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

/s/  
David Scott  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Alma Adams  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Al Lawson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Colin Allred  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress