



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

May 3, 2023

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD  
172 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD  
1034 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Support of H.R. 2474, the *Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act***

Dear Representatives Ruiz, Bucshon, Bera, and Miller-Meeks:

As patient and physician advocates, the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance) writes in support of your legislation, **H.R. 2474, the *Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act***, which would provide an annual inflationary update for Medicare physician payment tied to the Medicare Economic Index (MEI).

The Alliance represents more than 100,000 specialty physicians and is deeply committed to improving access to specialty medical care through the advancement of sound health policy. The Alliance is supportive of Congress taking immediate steps to stabilize Medicare physician reimbursements and appreciates your acknowledgement that a permanent solution is necessary to address the systemic issues with the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS).

As you know, Medicare physician reimbursement has failed to keep pace with rising inflation, leading to inadequate reimbursement. The Alliance is reassured that your legislation seeks to address underlying issues with the MPFS and ensure financial stability and predictability in the flawed physician payment system.

The layers of cuts imposed on physicians due to the applicable statutes create immense challenges in maintaining solvent practices, retaining and recruiting qualified staff, and ensuring patient access to health care. Because of the year-over-year reductions in Medicare reimbursements over the past several

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American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery • American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons • American College of Mohs Surgery • American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association • American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery • American Society of Echocardiography • American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Retina Specialists • American Urological Association • Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons • National Association of Spine Specialists • Society of Interventional Radiology

years, more and more physician practices have been forced to take drastic measures, such as limiting the number of Medicare patients they see, consolidating with larger hospital or health care systems, which increases costs to the Medicare program, or retiring early and permanently closing their doors.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you to address this serious problem and strengthen the Medicare program and patient access to providers.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
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