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The Honorable Brad Schneider
U.S. House of Representatives
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David McKinley
U.S. House of Representatives
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider and McKinley:

On behalf of our physician and medical student members, the American Medical Association (AMA) is writing to express our support for H.R. 8840, the “Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act of 2020.” This bill is vital to extend the Medicare sequestration relief that has already been provided through the passage of H.R. 748, the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act” (CARES Act), beyond its current expiration date of December 31, 2020. Since it is apparent that the COVID-19 public health emergency will stretch beyond 2020, the AMA supports a corresponding extension of the moratorium on the Medicare sequestration cuts.

The Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act is critically important now that CMS has issued its final rule on the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS), which is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2021. As COVID-19 surges across the country and many physicians have been dramatically impacted, they will face an average 10.2 percent cut to their Medicare payments in 2021 under the Medicare PFS rule. Without passage of the Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act of 2020, physicians will also be forced to endure the additional two percent cut from Medicare sequestration. Virtually every state across the country has seen a surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations—the pressures on the health care system and on physicians are not abating. The cuts to their payment from Medicare sequestration must be avoided through the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Physicians have stepped forward in heroic ways to battle this unprecedented medical crisis. As a result, it is crucial that Congress continue to exercise its authority to reduce the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on those serving on the frontlines. H.R. 8840, the Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act of 2020, is a strong step towards giving physicians the support they need and deserve while battling COVID-19.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD