

February 28, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our appreciation for the bipartisan enactment of *The Protecting Medicare and American Farmers from Sequester Cuts Act* in December 2021, which extends the suspension of Medicare sequestration cuts, pursuant to *The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. Suppressing sequestration has provided critical relief in our ongoing battle against COVID-19 and its variants, including Omicron, and enabled health care providers across the country to continue serving their patients and communities. We respectfully request, therefore, that Congress revisit the extension's prescribed structure under which sequestration payment reductions will soon resume, and instead extend the full 2% Medicare sequester moratorium for the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress has ensured that frontline health care providers have the resources necessary to keep our doors open to care for both COVID and non-COVID patients alike. While we are encouraged that the worst days of the Omicron variant are hopefully behind us, it is also abundantly clear that daily COVID infection rates, hospitalizations, and deaths remain exceedingly high. Though we strive towards learning to live with COVID in an endemic state, it is likely premature to declare victory over the pandemic.

On February 18, President Biden renewed the COVID-19 National Emergency declaration beyond March 1, 2022, writing that "more than 900,000 people in this Nation have perished from the disease, and it is essential to continue to combat and respond to COVID-19 with the full capacity and capability of the Federal Government." Along those lines, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has recently indicated that the COVID-19 PHE will likely be renewed for an additional 90 days beyond the current expiration date in April 2022.

*The Protecting Medicare and American Farmers from Sequester Cuts Act* authorized a three-month delay of 2% Medicare sequester payment reductions (January 1, 2022 - March 31,

2022), followed by a three-month, 1% reduction in Medicare sequester payment reductions (April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022). The resumption of the Medicare sequester before the end of the PHE would unnecessarily hinder our caregiving abilities, especially when the emergence of a new, potentially more dangerous and/or contagious variant continues to loom.

Consequently, we urge you to extend the current 2% Medicare sequester moratorium for the duration of the COVID-19 PHE, and to take action before April 1 when sequestration is scheduled to resume. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Academy of Doctors of Audiology  
Ambulatory Surgery Center Association  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association for Homecare  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Group Association  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
America's Essential Hospitals  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists  
Better Medicare Alliance

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Diabetes Technology Access Coalition  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
LeadingAge  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care  
Outpatient Ophthalmic Surgery Society  
Premier healthcare alliance  
Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association  
Vizient, Inc.