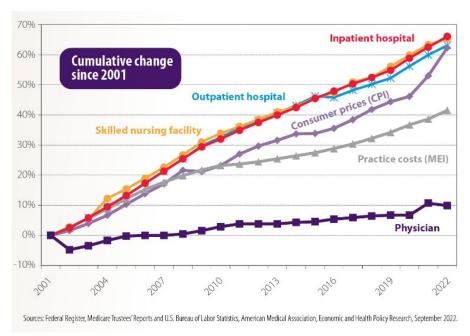
Dear Senator/Representative,

On behalf of the undersigned physician and non-physician organizations, representing more than one million clinicians and the patients they serve, welcome to the 118th Congress. Our combined memberships represent a *significant* portion of the clinicians in this nation, and we remain committed to ensuring America's seniors have access to high-quality care. Reforming the Medicare payment system is a crucial step in maintaining the clinician workforce that is necessary to serve America's seniors. We urge this Congress to hold Congressional hearings and work with all stakeholders to explore long-term payment solutions.

Unfortunately, we face an increasingly challenging environment providing Medicare beneficiaries with access to timely and quality care, which is particularly important for underserved and rural areas. The medical community continues to contend with the residual impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, a new triple-demic in many regions of the country, record levels of burnout, workforce shortages, and ongoing reductions to Medicare Part B payment and private payer reimbursement.

While Congress has taken action to address some of these fiscal challenges by mitigating some of the recent Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) cuts, payment continues to decline. According to an American Medical Association analysis of Medicare Trustees data, when adjusted for inflation, Medicare payments to clinicians have declined by 22% from 2001–2021.



Additionally, the MPFS lacks an annual inflationary update, even though clinicians — many of whom are small business owners — contend with a wide range of shifting economic factors, such as increasing administrative burdens, staff salaries, office rent, and purchasing of essential

technology when determining their ability to provide care to Medicare patients. The absence of an annual inflationary update, combined with statutory budget neutrality requirements, further compounds the difficulties our members face in managing resources to continue caring for patients in their communities.

These year-over-year cuts, combined with a paucity of available alternative payment/value-based care models, clearly demonstrate that the Medicare payment system is broken. These systemic issues will continue to generate significant instability for health care professionals moving forward, threatening patient's timely access to essential health care services.

Congress has a unique opportunity to adopt comprehensive, transformative reforms to the Medicare payment system over the next several years. Such reform is imperative to sustaining medical practices and ensuring a robust workforce to care for the growing number of America's seniors. We again ask Congress to work with us on long-term, substantive payment reforms and urge Congressional hearings as soon as possible to begin exploring potential payment solutions to ensure America's seniors continue to receive access to the high-quality care they deserve.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy

ADVION (Formerly the National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL))

Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation

Alliance for Recovery Care

Alliance of Specialty Medicine

Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders

Ambulatory Surgery Center Association

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

American Academy of Audiology

American Academy of Dermatology Association

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology

American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Association of Hip & Knee Surgeons

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing

American Chiropractic Association

American College of Cardiology

American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons

American College of Gastroenterology

American College of Mohs Surgery

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

American College of Osteopathic Internists

American College of Physicians

American College of Radiation Oncology

American College of Radiology

American College of Rheumatology

American College of Surgeons

American Gastroenterological Association

American Health Care Association

American Medical Association

American Medical Group Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Optometric Association

American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society

American Physical Therapy Association

American Podiatric Medical Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association Services

American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

American Society for Radiation Oncology

American Society for Surgery of the Hand Professional Organization

American Society of Anesthesiologists

American Society of Breast Surgeons

American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons

American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology

American Society of Echocardiography

American Society of Hand Therapists

American Society of Nephrology

American Society of Neuroradiology

American Society of Nuclear Cardiology

American Society of Plastic Surgeons

American Society of Retina Specialists

American Society of Transplant Surgeons

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

American Urogynecologic Society

American Urological Association

Association for Clinical Oncology

Association for Quality Imaging

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Black Cardiologists

Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists

Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers

CardioVascular Coalition

Clinical Social Work Association

Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations

College of American Pathologists

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition

Digestive Health Physicians Association

Emergency Department Practice Management Association

Heart Failure Society of America

Heart Rhythm Society

Infectious Diseases Society of America

Infusion Providers Alliance

Large Urology Group Practice Association

Medical Group Management Association

National Association of Rehab Providers & Agencies

National Association of Spine Specialists

National Center for Assisted Living

Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society

Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association

Radiology Business Management Association

Renal Physicians Association

Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

Society for Vascular Surgery

Society of Interventional Radiology
Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery
The US Oncology Network
United Specialists for Patient Access