



James L. Madara, MD
CEO, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

james.madara@ama-assn.org

September 15, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chair
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
2322-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers, Subcommittee Chair Eshoo, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Guthrie:

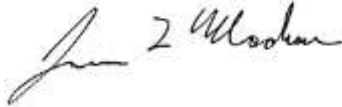
On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to urge the Committee on Energy and Commerce to favorably vote to adopt Representative Larry Bucshon's amendment to The Build Back Better Act. Representative Bucshon's amendment would continue the 3.75 percent payment adjustment for all Medicare Physician Fee Schedule services for CY 2022 that was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for CY 2021. This critical piece of congressional relief expires at the end of the calendar year and adds to impending cuts resulting from the expiring moratorium on the two percent Medicare sequester and the four percent Medicare payment cut due to PAYGO. Combined, physician practices face a 9.75 percent cut on January 1, 2022, unless Congress acts. This payment adjustment will afford some short-term stability for health care professionals struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic while we continue to work with Congress to enact substantive reforms.

As we have mentioned in previous letters to the Committee, the AMA continues to respectfully request that Congress convene hearings on the alarming state of the Medicare physician payment system. The promise of a robust and patient-centered alternative payment model pathway for physicians under MACRA has yet to be realized, leaving the majority of practices stuck in the MIPS portion of the MACRA program, with legacy and siloed cost and quality measurement programs that impose steep administrative burdens while lacking clinical relevance. We cannot achieve the promise of high-quality, coordinated care that helps patients achieve optimal health if the barriers to success in the MACRA program are not examined and addressed. The state of the program is increasingly dysfunctional and, ultimately, it will be patients who suffer.

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Page 2

We appreciate Representative Bucshon's leadership on this issue and your consideration and historical support. We look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen our health care system for the near and long-term.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD