

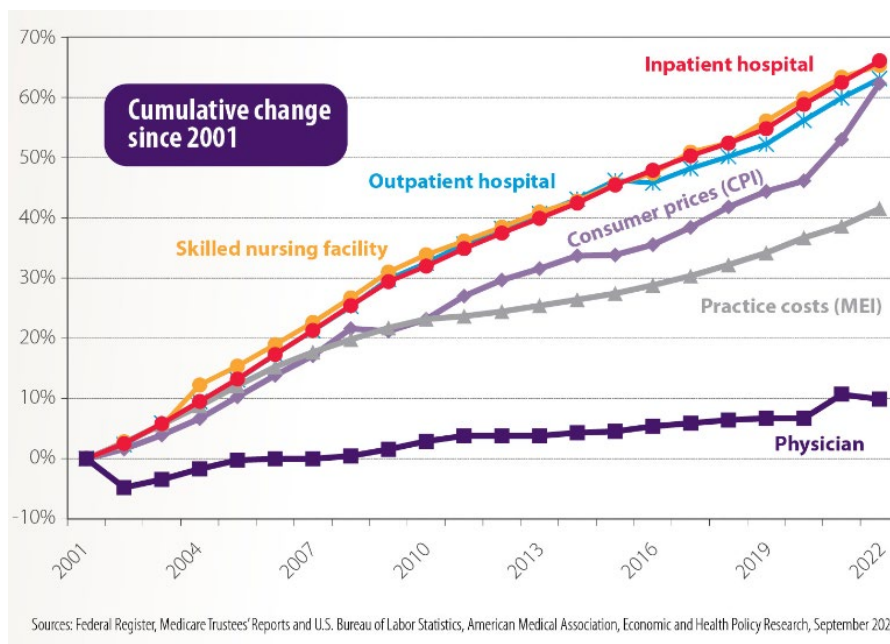
January 23, 2023

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