



Colleagues,

This is critically important. Please take one minute to email, pre-written for you, your respective congressional representatives.

Physicians are facing another round of Medicare payment cuts by CMS. Unless Congress acts by the end of the year, physician Medicare payments are planned to be cut by 8.42% in 2023, which would severely impede patient access to care due to the forced closure of physician practices and put further strain on those that remained open during the pandemic.

These scheduled cuts will come in the form of:

1. **CMS** - Proposed a 4.42% cut for all physician services in 2023 to offset payment policy improvements in office and facility-based visits.
2. **No inflationary update** - Physicians are the only providers whose Medicare payments do not automatically receive an annual inflationary update; during this time of record inflation on the heels of a highly disruptive pandemic, this statutory flaw amplifies the impact of proposed payment cuts.

When adjusted for inflation, Medicare physician payments have dropped by 22% from 2001 to 2021. Physicians simply cannot afford to operate under the current payment system. Congress must reform the Medicare physician payment system to make it simpler, more reflective of real-world physician practice costs and more predictable for both physicians and CMS before it's too late.

Recently, **Representatives Ami Bera, M.D., (D-CA) and Larry Bucshon, M.D., (R-IN) introduced H.R. 8800, the "Supporting Medicare Providers Act,"** to help address the flawed payment system and provide relief from the devastating cuts. This is a great first step, but it is critical that Congress act to pass this or any other legislation that will prevent these devastating cuts in the "lame duck" session. Please take a moment and contact your senators and representative to tell them to cancel the cuts. Input does not need to come from physicians. Family members, patients and anyone else who is concerned about access to health care should be engaged.

We are asking for your help in [strongly advocating that Congress avert this 3% payment cut](#) and retain expiring inflationary updates which, without Congressional action, is scheduled to start on Jan. 1, 2023. You can help in this effort by [sending a letter](#) to your congressional members, urging them to act swiftly to avert these significant payment cuts.

It's as easy [submitting this form, completing a few questions](#).

We appreciate your assistance.

Joe Love, M.D.
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