

November 11, 2020

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Brendan Boyle
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable George Holding
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Roger Marshall, MD
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Phil Roe, MD
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representatives Bera, Bucshon, Boyle, Finkenauer, Holding, Marshall, Roe and Ruiz:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 8702, a bill to halt pending Medicare payment cuts resulting from the planned evaluation and management (E/M) code changes slated for implementation on January 1, 2021.

This critical legislation recognizes the importance of allowing significant scheduled pay increases to primary care and others who primarily provide E/M services to take effect while also avoiding the devastating corresponding cuts for physician and non-physician providers that will occur because of Medicare's budget neutrality requirements. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to halt the implementation of any payment reductions that could inadvertently limit patient access to care as well as further exacerbate the financial instability of health care provider practices. **Our organizations support H.R. 8702 and its approach for providing two years of much-needed stability for Medicare providers as they continue to strive to meet the needs of patients during this public health emergency.**

We look forward to continued collaboration with you, your House colleagues, and Congressional leadership to advance H.R. 8702 in the next available legislative package. Again, thank you for your leadership in introducing legislation to prevent the forthcoming payment reductions generated by the budget neutrality requirements with the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Moran (ACR, cmoran@acr.org), Katie Orrico (AANS, korrico@neurosurgery.org) or Justin Elliott (APTA, justinelliott@apta.org).

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation
American Academy of Audiology
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Chiropractic Association
American College of Cardiology
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Radiation Oncology
American College of Radiology
American College of Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Health Care Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Optometric Association
American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society
American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Hand Therapists
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Retina Specialists
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Urogynecologic Society
Association for Quality Imaging
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Pathology Chairs
CardioVascular Coalition
Clinical Social Work Association
College of American Pathologists

Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition
Digestive Health Physicians Association
Medical Group Management Association
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care
National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of Spine Specialists
National Center for Assisted Living
Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association
Radiology Business Management Association
Select Medical
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Interventional Radiology
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
The American Society of Breast Surgeons
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
United Specialists for Patient Access

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Greg Walden
The Honorable Richie Neal
The Honorable Kevin Brady