

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage across the United States and around the world. As noted by the Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Norris Cochran, the declared COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) is expected to continue through the end of 2021.

On December 27, 2020, *The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021* was signed into law, providing a three-month extension (until March 31<sup>st</sup>) of the Medicare sequester moratorium as originally enacted in *The CARES Act*. While the undersigned organizations are very appreciative of this short-term extension, we once again ask Congress to fully extend the Medicare sequester moratorium through the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

The months ahead will be difficult as our nation launches an unprecedented effort to vaccinate the vast majority of Americans, while we simultaneously face the spread of new and potentially more harmful COVID-19 variants. Health care providers across the spectrum are ready to meet this challenge, but we need Congressional help now.

As Congress negotiates its next COVID-19 relief package, we urge the inclusion of ***H.R. 315, Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act*** – bipartisan legislation introduced by Reps. Brad Schneider (D-IL-10) and David McKinley, P.E. (R-WV-1) that will extend the Medicare sequester moratorium through the PHE.

We need every resource at our disposal to meet the significant challenges that remain, especially as health care providers continue to endure financial strain caused by the pandemic. Now is not the time to cut Medicare reimbursements that are necessary to providing care to our communities.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Community Health Plans  
Ambulatory Surgery Center Association  
America's Essential Hospitals  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
America's Physician Groups  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association for Homecare  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Surgeons  
American Health Care Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Group Association  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Digestive Health Physicians Association  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Infusion Providers Alliance  
Large Urology Group Practice Association  
LeadingAge  
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare  
National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization / Hospice Action Network  
Outpatient Ophthalmic Surgery Society  
Premier healthcare alliance  
Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association  
The Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Visiting Nurse Associations of America  
Vizient, Inc.