February 12, 2021

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

The American Medical Association and undersigned national specialty and state medical societies represent the vast majority of physicians practicing in the United States, many of whom continue to provide frontline care to Medicare patients as the COVID-19 global pandemic persists across the country. We are deeply concerned that persistently high COVID-19 rates will continue to stress the entire health care system, especially physician practices. To help alleviate the unrelenting fiscal demands of the pandemic, we strongly urge Congress to pass legislation that would extend the congressionally enacted moratorium on Medicare sequester cuts through the duration of the public health emergency (PHE).

We appreciate that Congress recognized early on during the pandemic the severe financial strain facing our nation’s health care system, including physician practices, and provided a much-needed reprieve from the two percent Medicare payment sequester through the remainder of 2020 in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. We also applaud Congress for including in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 an extension of the sequester moratorium until March 31, 2021. Even with the encouraging development and deployment of an effective vaccine, the fact remains that physician practices will continue to face overwhelming financial challenges and pressures associated with higher overhead costs (e.g., personal protective equipment) and lost revenue due to fewer patient visits and delayed elective procedures.

With the March 31 deadline looming, it is critical for Congress to take immediate steps to further postpone the imposition of the Medicare sequester. We, therefore, strongly urge you to pass H.R. 315, the “Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act”—bipartisan legislation that would continue the current Medicare sequester moratorium for the duration of the PHE.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association
Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry
AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
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
Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Honorable Charles Schumer  
Honorable Mitch McConnell  
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American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy  
American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association for Hand Surgery  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinology  
American Association of Clinical Urologists  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine  
American Medical Group Association  
American Medical Women’s Association  
American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Retina Specialists  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
American Vein & Lymphatic Society
Minnesota Medical Association
Mississippi State Medical Association
Missouri State Medical Association
Montana Medical Association
Nebraska Medical Association
Nevada State Medical Association
New Hampshire Medical Society
Medical Society of New Jersey
New Mexico Medical Society
Medical Society of the State of New York
North Carolina Medical Society
North Dakota Medical Association
Ohio State Medical Association
Oklahoma State Medical Association
Oregon Medical Association
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Rhode Island Medical Society
South Carolina Medical Association
South Dakota State Medical Association
Tennessee Medical Association
Texas Medical Association
Utah Medical Association
Vermont Medical Society
Medical Society of Virginia
Washington State Medical Association
West Virginia State Medical Association
Wisconsin Medical Society
Wyoming Medical Society