

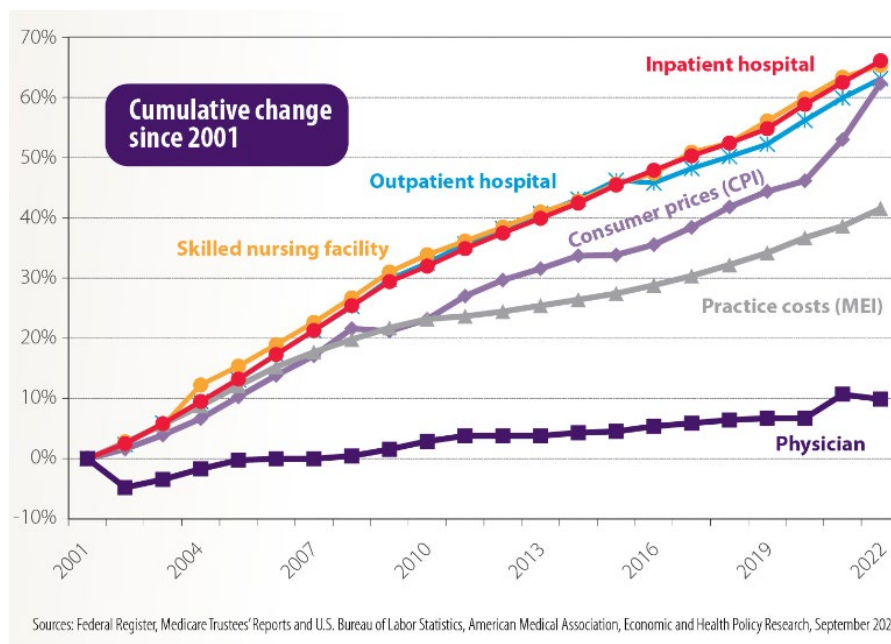
January 23, 2023

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 118<sup>th</sup> 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