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 118th 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.



Sources: Federal Register, Medicare Trustees' Reports and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, American Medical Association, Economic and Health Policy Research, September 2022.

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