



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Medicare Physician Payment Cuts

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leaders Jeffries and McConnell:

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine represents more than 100,000 specialty physicians and is deeply committed to improving access to specialty medical care through the advancement of sound health policy. The Alliance urges Congress to take immediate steps to reverse the 3.37% cut to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule that became effective on January 1 as you negotiate a funding package for fiscal year 2024.

We are dismayed that Congress has allowed yet another Medicare physician pay cut to go into effect and that the recently announced bipartisan agreement for a continuing resolution does not address the cut. As specialty physicians who collectively and continually care for many patients suffering from complex conditions, and who are part of a workforce coping with high inflation and labor costs, we question how the compounding layers of cuts are justified year after year. We are profoundly disappointed and concerned that cuts imposed on physicians create immense challenges in maintaining solvent practices, retaining and recruiting qualified staff, and ensuring patient access to health care. Because of the year-over-year reductions in Medicare reimbursements over the past several years, more and more physician practices have been forced to take drastic measures, such as limiting the number of Medicare patients they see, consolidating with larger hospital or health care systems, which increases costs to the Medicare program, or retiring early and permanently closing their doors.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Specialty Medicine

www.specialtydocs.org

info@specialtydocs.org

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery • American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons • American College of Mohs Surgery • American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association • American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery • American Society of Echocardiography • American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Retina Specialists • American Urological Association • Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons • National Association of Spine Specialists • Society of Interventional Radiology