

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 2, 2022

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

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

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell,

We write to express our serious concerns regarding the stability of Medicare payments to health care providers. Congress must address these vital payment challenges before the end of 2022 to ensure seniors continue to have access to care through a wide network of providers.

Multiple changes to physician and other provider payments are slated to go into effect starting January 1, 2023. We urge you to work with members on a bipartisan basis to address these imminent payment cuts. Going forward, we support bipartisan, long-term payment reforms to Medicare in a fiscally responsible manner.

Providers across the country are facing significant financial hardship due to higher practice costs and the impacts of COVID-19. Financial uncertainty due to pending payment cuts will only compound these challenges. It is essential in the coming weeks that we make sure providers have the resources they need to keep their doors open for seniors and families.

As you know, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released their CY 2023 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) rule on July 7, 2022. This rulemaking is bound by a statutory budget neutrality requirement, which requires that any projected increases to PFS spending resulting from policies in the rule be offset through policies elsewhere within the PFS.

We appreciate the past work of Senate leadership to address instability within the Medicare payment system. In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (P.L. 116-260), Congress passed a 3.75 percent payment adjustment for physician services to ensure greater certainty for these providers. Congress extended this relief for 2022 through a subsequent 3 percent adjustment included in the Protecting Medicare and American Farmers from Sequester Cuts Act (P.L. 117-71). However, this provision is set to expire at the end of the year.

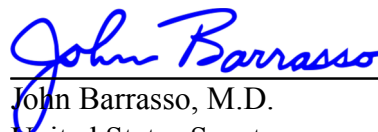
Failure to act in the coming weeks could result in reduced staffing levels and office closures, jeopardizing patient access to care. We are especially concerned about this impact in rural and underserved communities. Failure to act on longer-term reforms will undermine Medicare's ability to deliver on its promises to future seniors and generations.

We appreciate your past interest on this issue, and we look forward to working with you in the coming weeks to address access to care for our seniors.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



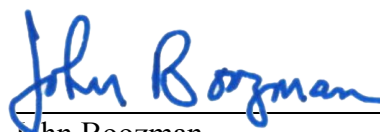
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Roger W. Marshall
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



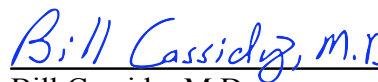
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Rand Paul
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



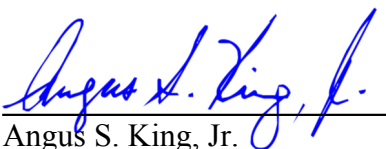
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



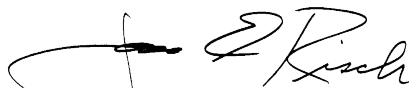
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



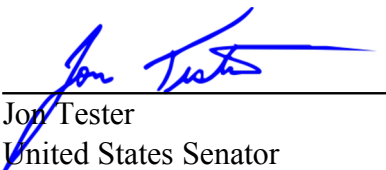
Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



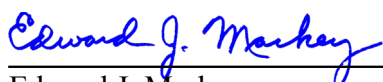
Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



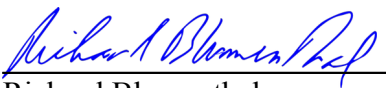
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator