



January 5, 2026

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
200 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD
172 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Ruiz, Bilirakis, Panetta, Bera, and Schrier:

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and our more than 60,000 cardiovascular clinicians and team members, I write to express our strong support for the ***Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act (H.R. 6160)***.

The ACC appreciates your leadership in addressing the long-standing instability of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS). By updating the single conversion factor beginning in 2026 and tying future updates to the Medicare Economic Index (MEI), this legislation takes an important step toward aligning Medicare payment updates with the real and rising costs of delivering quality patient care.

For years, cardiology practices—like many medical specialties—have faced persistent payment cuts and inadequate updates under the PFS, even as practice expenses continue to increase due to inflation, workforce shortages, regulatory requirements, and investments in technology and care coordination. These financial pressures threaten the ability of cardiovascular clinicians to maintain access to high-quality, patient-centered care, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

H.R. 6160 would help restore financial predictability and stability to Medicare physician payments by ensuring annual updates reflect changes in the cost of providing care. This approach supports physician practices' ability to invest in staff, infrastructure, and innovative care models that improve outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries with cardiovascular disease—America's leading cause of death.

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Chief Executive Officer
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The Mission of the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology Foundation is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health for all.

The ACC strongly believes that stabilizing the Medicare payment system is essential to protecting patient access, supporting the cardiovascular workforce, and sustaining the delivery of high-value care. We urge Congress to advance H.R. 6160 and continue working toward comprehensive reforms that ensure Medicare keeps pace with the realities of modern medical practice.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued commitment to America's patients and clinicians. Please do not hesitate to contact the American College of Cardiology if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Kramer, MD, FACC
President
American College of Cardiology

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) is a global leader dedicated to transforming cardiovascular care and improving heart health for all. For more than 75 years, the ACC has empowered a community of over 60,000 cardiovascular professionals across more than 140 countries with cutting-edge education and advocacy, rigorous professional credentials, and trusted clinical guidance. From its world-class JACC Journals and NCDR registries to its Accreditation Services, global network of Chapters and Sections, and CardioSmart patient initiatives, the College is committed to creating a world where science, knowledge and innovation optimize patient care and outcomes. Learn more at www.ACC.org or connect on social media at @ACCinTouch.

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