April 19, 2023

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
United States House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon
United States House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera
United States House of Representatives
172 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks
United States House of Representatives
1034 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Ruiz, Bucshon, Bera, and Miller-Meeks:

The undersigned national physician specialty societies and state medical associations commend you for introducing H.R. 2474, the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act. This bipartisan legislation advances the ongoing need to provide financial stability to physician practices in order to preserve access to care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Providing an annual inflation update equal to the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) for Medicare physician payments is essential to enabling physician practices to better absorb payment distributions triggered by budget neutrality rules, performance adjustments, and periods of high inflation. It will also help physicians invest in their practices and implement new strategies to provide high-value care.

The annual “stop the Medicare payment cut” exercises are due, in no small part, to the fact that physician services do not receive the annual inflationary update that virtually all other Medicare providers can rely on to better weather periods of fiscal uncertainty. The COVID-19 pandemic further illustrated the challenges physicians endure due to the current broken Medicare payment system. While the temporary and partial patches that Congress has provided through 2024 were necessary under the current payment system, they are a distraction, exacerbate budgeting challenges for practices, and divert resources that both medicine and Congress could be spending on other meaningful health care policies and innovations. Therefore, organized medicine is united in support of a long-term payment solution that centers on annual inflationary updates.

Once again, we sincerely appreciate your leadership in introducing H.R. 2474, as this legislation promotes this key element of any comprehensive, meaningful Medicare physician payment reform plan. We look forward to working with you on this legislation to advance it through the House and Senate during the 118th Congress.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association
AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
National Association of Medical Examiners
National Association of Spine Specialists
North American Neuromodulation Society
Renal Physicians Association
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Pediatric Dermatology
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons
Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Interventional Radiology
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
Spine Intervention Society
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Alaska State Medical Association
Arizona Medical Association
Arkansas Medical Society
California Medical Association
Colorado Medical Society
Connecticut State Medical Society
Medical Society of Delaware
Medical Society of the District of Columbia
Florida Medical Association
Medical Association of Georgia
Hawaii Medical Association
Idaho Medical Association
Illinois State Medical Society
Indiana State Medical Association
Iowa Medical Society
Kansas Medical Society
Kentucky Medical Association
Louisiana State Medical Society
Maine Medical Association
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society
Massachusetts Medical Society
Michigan State Medical Society
Minnesota Medical Association
Mississippi State Medical Association
Missouri State Medical Association
Montana Medical Association
Nebraska Medical Association
Nevada State Medical Association
New Hampshire Medical Society
Medical Society of New Jersey
New Mexico Medical Society
Medical Society of the State of New York  
   North Carolina Medical Society  
   North Dakota Medical Association  
   Ohio State Medical Association  
   Oklahoma State Medical Association  
   Oregon Medical Association  
   Pennsylvania Medical Society  
   Rhode Island Medical Society  
   South Carolina Medical Association  
   South Dakota State Medical Association  
   Tennessee Medical Association  
   Texas Medical Association  
   Utah Medical Association  
   Vermont Medical Society  
   Medical Society of Virginia  
   Washington State Medical Association  
   West Virginia State Medical Association  
   Wisconsin Medical Society  
   Wyoming Medical Society

Cc:  The Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Mike Crapo, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Jason Smith, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Richie Neal, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means