

SENIOR VOTERS HAVE SPOKEN: Stop Cuts to Medicare for Outpatient Physical Therapy Services

According to a new Morning Consult poll, American seniors are largely concerned with Medicare cuts to physical and occupational therapy proposed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for 2023. Seniors feel so strongly about the proposed cuts that action by Congress to stop the cuts will influence how seniors vote in future elections.

Medicare has proposed a 4.42% cut to providers in CY2023 under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. If this cut is implemented as proposed, the physical and occupational therapy community will experience cuts totaling approximately 9% by 2024. Further, Medicare has proposed making severe cuts of up to 40% to new remote monitoring codes, which enable beneficiaries to receive therapy in the home more readily. All of these cuts threaten the sustainability of the country's physical and occupational providers, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

As new poll results demonstrate, Medicare beneficiaries largely reject these cuts and support Congressional intervention to prevent them:



88% of seniors have a favorable view of physical therapists.



88% of seniors expressed concern that Medicare cuts would limit their ability to age in place.



88% of seniors think physical and occupational therapy can improve their ability to remain independent in their homes.



80% of seniors are more likely to vote for candidates who support protecting physical and occupational therapists from Medicare cuts.



76% of seniors say it is important for them to be able to access their physical therapist when they cannot physically come into the office for an in-person visit.



75% of seniors believe expanding access to advanced technology would make it easier for them to access their physical and occupational therapists.