

November 6, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of the 54 organizations representing physicians and other health care providers across the United States, we write to urge Congress to stop the 3.4% cut in Medicare physician payment that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently finalized in the Calendar Year 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) final rule. The agency acknowledges in the final rule that, due to budget neutrality requirements, the majority of the cut is created by the decision to increase payments for primary care services through the creation of the new G2211 code.

We acknowledge policymakers' desire for additional investments in primary care, however these increases are being paid for by an across-the-board cut to all clinicians. It is imperative that Medicare patients have access to the full range of essential health care services, including primary *and* specialty care. Further, clinicians are facing these cuts when they are expecting a 4.6% increase in medical practice cost inflation in 2024, as measured by the Medicare economic index.

Therefore, in the absence of long-term reform, Congress must stop the full 3.4% cut.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

ADVION (formerly known as National Association for the Support of Long Term Care)

Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation

Ambulatory Surgery Center Association

American Academy of Dermatology Association

American Academy of Emergency Medicine

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Association of Hip & Knee Surgeons
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Chiropractic Association
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Radiology
American College of Surgeons
American Health Care Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Optometric Association
American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society for Surgery of the Hand Professional Organization
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Breast Surgeons
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery
American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons
American Society of Hand Therapists
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Retina Specialists
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Urogynecologic Society

APTA Private Practice, a Section of the American Physical Therapy Association

Association of Pathology Chairs

California Medical Association

College of American Pathologists

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Emergency Department Practice Management Association

Medical Society of the State of New York

National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies

National Center for Assisted Living

Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions

Society for Vascular Surgery

Society of Interventional Radiology

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons