

November 9, 2022

Congresswoman Deborah Ross
United States House of Representatives
1208 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Via email: Puj.Adusumilli@mail.house.gov

Dear Congresswoman Ross:

On behalf of our state's physicians and the medical societies listed below, we write to express our serious concerns regarding the stability of Medicare payments to health care providers. On January 1, 2023, physicians are scheduled to face a reduction in payment for their care of Medicare patients which could amount to nearly 8.5%. Such a cut would severely impede patient access to care due to the resulting financial hardships and even closure of practices. Congress must address this impending crisis before the end of 2022 to ensure North Carolina seniors continue to receive the care they need and deserve. We are especially concerned about the impact of the cuts in our state's rural and underserved communities.

We are requesting your help and that you work with the physician community to develop long-term solutions to improve the Medicare physician payment system. Specifically, our physicians and their patients need you to act to:

- Prevent the scheduled 4.48 % payment reduction from going into effect on Jan 1, 2023.
- Provide financial stability through a baseline positive annual update based on the Medicare Economic Index reflecting inflation in practice costs.
- Waive the statutory PAYGO requirements.

When adjusted for inflation, Medicare physician payments have dropped by 22% from 2001 to 2021 and physicians are the only providers whose Medicare payments do not automatically receive an annual inflationary update. Physicians simply cannot afford to operate under the current payment system, especially during this time of record inflation which comes on the heels of a highly disruptive pandemic. Financial uncertainty which will result from the payment cuts will only compound these challenges so it is essential that Congress gives providers assurance that they will have the resources they need to keep their doors open for seniors and families.

We urge you to work with your colleagues in the [HOUSE / SENATE] on a bipartisan basis to address these imminent payment reductions. We appreciate your support and engagement on this matter and your work on behalf of our state.

Cordially,

North Carolina Medical Society
Old North State Medical Society
NC Osteopathic Medical Association
Durham-Orange County Medical Society
Mecklenburg County Medical Society
New Hanover-Pender County Medical Society
Wake County Medical Society
Western North Carolina Medical Society
NC Chapter, American College of Cardiology
NC Dermatology Association
Carolinas Society of Endocrinologists
NC College of Emergency Physicians
NC Academy of Family Physicians
NC Society of Gastroenterology
NC Chapter/American College of Physicians
NC Neurological Society
NC Obstetrical and Gynecological Society
NC Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
NC Orthopaedic Association
NC Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgeons
NC Pediatric Society
NC Society of Plastic Surgeons
NC Psychiatric Association
NC Radiological Society
NC Chapter, American College of Surgeons
NC Urological Association