

May 26, 2023

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tony Cardenas  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Murphy, MD  
407 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Danny Davis  
2159 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bilirakis, Murphy, Cardenas, and Davis:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, a coalition of national medical societies, representing a broad range of physicians, health professionals and practice managers who care for Medicare beneficiaries in a community-based, office setting, **thank you for introducing H.R. 3674, the “Providing Relief and Stability for Medicare Patients Act of 2023.”** This critical legislation mitigates cuts to office-based specialists for a targeted group of services for two years, thereby helping to avoid significant disruptions in patient access to care while overall concerns regarding the future of Medicare physician payments are addressed.

Office-based specialty care is a critical service outside of the hospital setting. These specialists provide a wide range of services to patients with cancer, end-stage renal disease, eye disease, fibroids, as well as limb salvage and venous ulcer needs. The office setting is also critical for patient access (especially in rural and underserved areas) and can result in patients receiving care in a timelier manner. Unfortunately, the prolonged instability within the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS)—driven by a confluence of fiscal uncertainties physician practices face related to statutory payment cuts, perennial lack of inflationary updates, significant administrative barriers, and the cumulative impact of the pandemic—is jeopardizing the financial viability of many community, office-based, physician practices.

H.R. 3674 would provide targeted relief for these practices by providing an increase to the non-facility practice expense relative value units (PE RVU's) for those procedures performed in an office-based setting that utilize high-tech medical devices and/or equipment and thus were most negatively impacted in the 2022 PFS with the updating of the clinical labor costs in the budget neutral practice expense methodology.

As you are aware, the discrepancy between what it costs to run a physician practice and actual payment combined with the administrative and financial burden of participating in Medicare is incentivizing market consolidation. We are concerned that the ongoing severity of these cuts, combined with additional payment adjustments anticipated in the forthcoming CY2024 PFS, will result in a breaking point for many physicians. **Absent additional Congressional intervention via passage of H.R. 3674, the result will be more providers leaving the field (either through retirement or career adjustment), more practices being closed or sold, and a significant number of patients losing access to a variety of healthcare service in their communities.**

Again, thank you for your efforts and leadership in introducing legislation to provide targeted relief for community-based physician practices. Our organizations stand in strong support of H.R. 3674 and look forward to working with you to advance this critical bill.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders  
American Association of Clinical Urologists  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American Rhinologic Society  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Urological Association  
American Vein & Lymphatic Society  
American Venous Forum  
Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers  
CardioVascular Coalition  
Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition  
Free From Fibroids Foundation  
Large Urology Group Practice Association (LUGPA)  
Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
United Specialists for Patient Access