

February 12, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

The American Medical Association and undersigned national specialty and state medical societies represent the vast majority of physicians practicing in the United States, many of whom continue to provide frontline care to Medicare patients as the COVID-19 global pandemic persists across the country. We are deeply concerned that persistently high COVID-19 rates will continue to stress the entire health care system, especially physician practices. To help alleviate the unrelenting fiscal demands of the pandemic, **we strongly urge Congress to pass legislation that would extend the congressionally enacted moratorium on Medicare sequester cuts through the duration of the public health emergency (PHE).**

We appreciate that Congress recognized early on during the pandemic the severe financial strain facing our nation's health care system, including physician practices, and provided a much-needed reprieve from the two percent Medicare payment sequester through the remainder of 2020 in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. We also applaud Congress for including in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 an extension of the sequester moratorium until March 31, 2021. Even with the encouraging development and deployment of an effective vaccine, the fact remains that physician practices will continue to face overwhelming financial challenges and pressures associated with higher overhead costs (e.g., personal protective equipment) and lost revenue due to fewer patient visits and delayed elective procedures.

With the March 31 deadline looming, it is critical for Congress to take immediate steps to further postpone the imposition of the Medicare sequester. **We, therefore, strongly urge you to pass H.R. 315, the "Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act"—bipartisan legislation that would continue the current Medicare sequester moratorium for the duration of the PHE.**

Sincerely,

American Medical Association  
Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry  
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 Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

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American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy  
American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association for Hand Surgery  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinology  
American Association of Clinical Urologists  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine  
American Medical Group Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Retina Specialists  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
American Vein & Lymphatic Society

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American Venous Forum  
American Rhinologic Society  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of University Radiologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Endocrine Society  
International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association of Medical Examiners  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society  
Outpatient Endovascular & Interventional Society  
Renal Physician Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Spine Intervention Society

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 Inc  
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

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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