November 11, 2020

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD       The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD
U.S. House of Representatives     U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Brendan Boyle       The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
U.S. House of Representatives     U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable George Holding      The Honorable Roger Marshall, MD
U.S. House of Representatives     U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Phil Roe, MD        The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD
U.S. House of Representatives     U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representatives Bera, Bucshon, Boyle, Finkenauer, Holding, Marshall, Roe and Ruiz:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 8702, a bill to halt pending Medicare payment cuts resulting from the planned evaluation and management (E/M) code changes slated for implementation on January 1, 2021.

This critical legislation recognizes the importance of allowing significant scheduled pay increases to primary care and others who primarily provide E/M services to take effect while also avoiding the devastating corresponding cuts for physician and non-physician providers that will occur because of Medicare’s budget neutrality requirements. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to halt the implementation of any payment reductions that could inadvertently limit patient access to care as well as further exacerbate the financial instability of health care provider practices. Our organizations support H.R. 8702 and its approach for providing two years of much-needed stability for Medicare providers as they continue to strive to meet the needs of patients during this public health emergency.

We look forward to continued collaboration with you, your House colleagues, and Congressional leadership to advance H.R. 8702 in the next available legislative package. Again, thank you for your leadership in introducing legislation to prevent the forthcoming payment reductions generated by the budget neutrality requirements with the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Moran (ACR, cmoran@acr.org), Katie Orrico (AANS, korrico@neurosurgery.org) or Justin Elliott (APTA, justinelliott@apta.org).

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation
American Academy of Audiology
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Chiropractic Association
American College of Cardiology
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Radiation Oncology
American College of Radiology
American College of Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Health Care Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Optometric Association
American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society
American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Hand Therapists
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Retina Specialists
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Urogynecologic Society
Association for Quality Imaging
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Pathology Chairs
CardioVascular Coalition
Clinical Social Work Association
College of American Pathologists
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition  
Digestive Health Physicians Association  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care  
National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
National Center for Assisted Living  
Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association  
Radiology Business Management Association  
Select Medical  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging  
The American Society of Breast Surgeons  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
United Specialists for Patient Access

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Frank Pallone  
The Honorable Greg Walden  
The Honorable Richie Neal  
The Honorable Kevin Brady