

*The full text of the letter is available below:*

Dear President Biden, Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

We write today as a bipartisan group of lawmakers urging you to act quickly to prevent the more than 8 percent cut in Medicare reimbursement that will directly impact patients in this country. Reducing Medicare payments by more than 8 percent, which comes on the heels of the 2 percent sequestration cut resuming earlier this year, would directly harm our nation's medical groups, physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers who care for our communities.

As you know, in addition to the 2 percent Medicare sequestration cut that went into full effect in July, these drastic reimbursement reductions are being driven by the 4 percent Statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) requirement and the 4.47 percent cut to the Medicare conversion factor which affects many health care providers, including physicians. Compounded by workforce shortages, increased costs and supply chain issues, and the ongoing ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, these cuts will impact the ability of providers to care for their patients. In fact, we have heard from provider organizations that if these additional Medicare cuts are not prevented, medical groups and integrated systems of care would be forced to eliminate services, furlough staff, implement hiring freezes, and delay population health initiatives. Congress must ensure that Medicare providers continue to have the necessary financial support to care for our nation's seniors who rely on Medicare.

Providers will face cuts of more than 10 percent to Medicare payments on Jan. 1, 2023, which includes the 2 percent sequestration policy already in effect. We are opposed to paying for preventing these cuts with additional provider cuts. The combination of skyrocketing expenses, significant staffing shortages and looming cuts to Medicare payments will only make a bad situation far worse – especially for seniors in rural and underserved areas who continue to face health care access issues. Physicians, in particular, do not receive inflationary updates in the Medicare program and, as a result, we urge Congressional intervention to prevent the entirety of these cuts. Anything short of this is still a cut that hurts providers and the patients that they treat. We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and look forward to working together to ensure these cuts are prevented.

Sincerely,

CC: Chairwoman Murray, Chairman Wyden, Chairman Neal, and Chairman Pallone