

December 14, 2020

The Honorable John Boozman
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
400 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cotton
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Boozman, Collins, Cramer, Cotton and Hyde-Smith:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your leadership in introducing S. 5007, the Holding Providers Harmless From Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020, a bill to halt pending Medicare payment cuts resulting from the finalized 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. While the COVID-19 pandemic rages and wreaks havoc on the health care system, providers continue to contend with overflowing hospitals and the financial impact of the spring-summer government-recommended shutdown of most non-urgent medical care. Against this backdrop, double-digit Medicare cuts will be devastating for patients, communities and providers. **Our organizations support S. 5007 and its approach for providing two years of much-needed payment 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 Senate colleagues, and Congressional leadership to include S. 5007 in a year-end 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 Dental Group Practice

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American Chiropractic Association
American Cochlear Implant Alliance
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 Health Care Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Optometric Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society for Surgery of the Hand
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Breast Surgeons
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Colon & 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 Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Urogynecologic Society
Association for Quality Imaging
Association of Black Cardiologists

Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers
Association of Pathology Chairs
Brain Injury Association of America
CardiVascular Coalition
Clinical Social Work Association
College of American Pathologists
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition
Digestive Health Physicians Association
Emergency Department Practice Management Association
Heart Failure Society of America
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 Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Interventional Radiology
Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
United Specialists for Patient Access

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Charles Schumer