



Legislative & Regulatory News

SIR Call-to-Action on the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act

The Society of Interventional Radiology is a member of the GME Advocacy Coalition, sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). SIR is working collaboratively with AAMC and other groups to ask that Congress pass ***the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act*** (S.834 / H.R. 2256). This legislation seeks to alleviate the current physician shortage by creating 14,000 new resident training spots over the next seven years (2,000 slots annually between 2023-2029). The bill also mandates a federal study to develop strategies to increase health professional availability in underserved rural and urban communities. The bills are sponsored by Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL).

SIR is joining the AAMC and asking you to take a moment to [contact your Congressional delegation](#) and urge them to co-sponsor the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act.

SIR Hosting IR Caucus & Fellows Award Dinner at ACR Annual Meeting

At this year's ACR Annual Meeting, SIR will have a significant role. SIR is sponsoring the IR Caucus meeting on Sunday, April 24 from 7-8am ET. If you have not already registered, please consider doing so today!

[ACR Annual Meeting Registration](#)

Additionally, SIR will host a dinner on Sunday night for SIR members who are receiving the ACR Fellow Award.

SIR Calls on Congress to Increase NIH Funding

In the coming days, SIR will be reaching out asking members to contact their Congressional delegation to ask them to continue strong investments for the National Institutes of Health in FY2023. Specifically, SIR is calling for an overall funding level of at least \$49.048 billion for the NIH, and at least \$458.5 million for the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB). These figures represent a \$3.5 billion increase to NIH, including the release of 21st Century Cures funds, and a \$33.6 million increase to NIBIB--continuing our nation's leadership for biomedical research. Acknowledging the many competing issues and challenges facing our country, we ask that Congress prioritize NIH base funding to continue increasing our knowledge and understanding of a wide range of diseases and disorders.

Imaging, and more broadly the work funded by NIH, plays a critical role in understanding and treating patients. Robust and predictable NIH funding will pay dividends well into the future.

Further, SIR is joining the Association of American Medical Colleges advocacy efforts with Congress, emphasizing the need for increased NIH and **Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)** funding.

CMS Delays Start of Radiation Oncology Alternative Payment Model

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has delayed the controversial Radiation Oncology Alternative Payment Model yet again, cancer care advocates revealed last week.

The mandatory bundled payment initiative was slated to kick off on Jan. 1, 2023, following numerous delays. However, the agency has now deferred the launch to a yet-to-be-determined date, which will be decided through future rulemaking. Lawmakers as well as radiology groups have pushed for the postponement.

No Rush on Appropriations Bills

Appropriations committee leadership in both the House and Senate did not meet before the Easter and Passover recess, as some lawmakers had hoped. The meeting will kickstart fiscal 2023 talks after President Joe Biden released his budget proposal late last month. Biden proposed \$813 billion in defense-related spending and about \$831 billion in domestic and foreign aid spending.

Health and Human Services Secretary, Xavier Becerra, testified before Congressional committees three times this month to discuss his department's 2023 budget request. The department is seeking funding of \$139.7 billion, up 18 percent from fiscal 2022.

Lawmakers questioned the HHS Secretary on a range of topics, including a proposal to close the so-called 'family glitch' in the Affordable Care Act. This refers to the fact that when the affordability of an employer-sponsored health plan is determined, it's based on **just** the cost for the employee. The cost of adding family members is not taken into consideration. But the affordability determination is then applied to all members of the family who could be added to the employer-sponsored health plan. Additional issues discussed included emigration, mental health, and reproductive health care.

Recent SIR Meetings with Members of Congress

- [Rep. Yvette Clark \(D-NY\)](#) - SIRPAC board member, Dr. Arshad Khan, attended an event with the Congresswoman on 3/31. Assistant Speaker of the House, Katherine Clark (D-MA) & Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA) were also at the dinner. Dr. Khan was able to talk to each policymaker about the needs of IRs and current federal legislation.
- [Rep. Richard Neal \(D-MA\)](#) - On 3/28 SIR staff attended a dinner for Rep. Neal. The Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee assured us that the Prior Authorization bill, [Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act](#), would be prioritized in the committee and will soon receive a markup. The bipartisan legislation would improve care for seniors by streamlining and standardizing the way Medicare Advantage (MA) plans use prior authorization and increasing oversight and transparency around prior authorization. SIR recognizes that Prior Authorization is an important issue for our members and will continue to closely monitor any developments on this issue.
- [Rep. Vern Buchanan \(R-FL\)](#) - On 3/31 SIR staff met with Rep. Buchanan and his staff regarding ongoing legislative issues facing physicians including: Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, Prior Authorization, and Clinical Labor cuts. Rep. Buchanan is a highly ranked member of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee.
- [NRSC](#) - SIR attended a reception at the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) where several Senators were on hand to discuss active legislation and respond to questions. SIR looks forward to having a similar event with senior Democratic Senators in the near future.

- Many more events are coming soon, including:

- A virtual event on April 26 with Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ) and the Congressional PAD Caucus to address Minority Health.