

December 6, 2023

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1034 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier, M.D.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1110 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robin Kelly  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2329 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Miller-Meeks, Schrier, Bucshon, Kelly:

On behalf of the twenty undersigned organizations representing surgeons and anesthesiologists, we write to thank you for your leadership in introducing the Physician Fee Schedule Update and Improvements Act, H.R. 6545. As our members are again facing cuts on January 1, 2024, we appreciate your commitment to addressing some of the flaws within the broken Medicare payment system.

As you know, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has finalized an approximately 3.37% cut to the conversion factor for 2024. Clinicians are facing these cuts on top of an expected 4.6% increase in medical practice cost inflation in 2024, as measured by the Medicare economic index. We appreciate your efforts to mitigate these cuts and hope more can be done to fully eliminate them.

Additionally, Medicare's statutory budget neutrality requirement — unique to the physician payment program — has been a key driver of the broken payment system. We thank you for recognizing the problems associated with budget neutrality and appreciate your efforts to take an initial step to addressing this problem.

Congress must act before the end of the year to stop the full Medicare physician payment cut. The Physician Fee Schedule Update and Improvements Act is an important step in that direction, and we thank you for your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

American College of Surgeons

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society

American Society for Surgery of the Hand Professional Organization

American Society of Anesthesiology

American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons

American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

American Society of Retina Specialists

American Urogynecologic Society

American Urological Association

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Society for Vascular Surgery

Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons