Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker U.S House of Representatives H-232, U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives H-204, U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

We write to bring to your attention a matter of great urgency. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will be issuing new payment policies in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for 2021. The changes have many positive attributes, including improvements for maternity care and much-needed payment increases for physicians delivering primary and complex office-based care to some of our nation's most vulnerable patients.

Unfortunately, a statutory budget neutrality rule requires that any increases in Medicare payments for these office visits, also known as evaluation and management (E/M) services, must be offset by corresponding decreases. As a result, many specialists now face substantial cuts beginning on January 1, 2021, if Congress does not act before the end of the year. Payment cuts of this magnitude will surely strain a health care system that is already stressed by the COVID-19 pandemic and could jeopardize patient access to medically necessary services.

In order to safeguard beneficiaries' access to care during this pandemic, we as Congress should examine possible bipartisan solutions to address excessively steep cuts. We encourage you to incorporate the resulting policy changes in any upcoming legislation moving through the House.

Health care professionals across the spectrum are reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 emergency as they continue to serve patients during this global pandemic. Thank you for considering our request and for your continued leadership during these trying times.

Sincerely,

Ami Bera, M.D.

Member of Congress

Larry/Bucshon, M.D.

Xury Bucher

Brendan F. Boyle

Member of Congress

George Holding Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

Roger W. Marshall, M.D.

Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer Member of Congress Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress

Additional signers:

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Pete Aguilar Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred Member of Congress

Cindy Axne

Member of Congress

Don Bacon

Member of Congress

Jim Banks

Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán Member of Congress

Jack Bergman

Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. Member of Congress

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Kelly Armstrong Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S. Member of Congress

James R. Baird Member of Congress

Andy Barr

Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty

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Andy Biggs

Gus M. Bilirakis Member of Congress

Dan Bishop

Member of Congress

Mike Bost

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Susan W. Brooks Member of Congress

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Cheri Bustos

Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Wm. Lacy Clay Member of Congress

Tom Cole

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