

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer:

We write to express our support for addressing upcoming physician payment cuts in ongoing legislative negotiations. We believe these cuts will further strain our health care system, which is already stressed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and jeopardize patient access to medically necessary services over the long-term.

On December 1, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services finalized the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for 2021. The fee schedule includes several positive attributes, including improvements for maternity care and much-needed payment increases for physicians delivering primary and other essential outpatient and office-based care to some of our nation's most vulnerable patients. These changes should take effect on January 1, 2021, as planned.

However, 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 practitioners including surgeons, specialists, therapists and others face substantial cuts beginning on January 1, 2021, if Congress does not take action to provide relief.

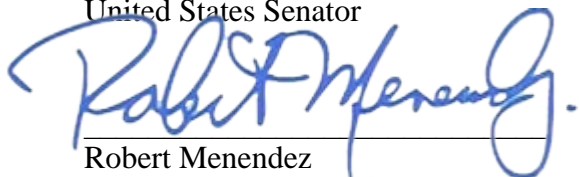
Health care professionals across the spectrum are reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 emergency as they continue to serve patients during this global pandemic. The payment cuts finalized by CMS would pose a threat to providers and their patients under any circumstances, but during a pandemic the impact is even more profound. Therefore, we hope to work with you to address this critical issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

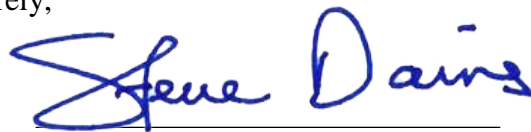
Sincerely,



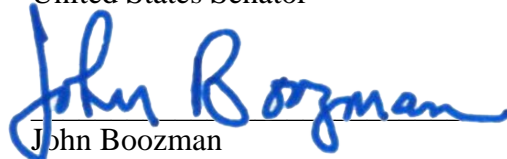
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator

/s/ Thomas R. Carper
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

/s/ Kevin Cramer
Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ James Lankford
James Lankford
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

/s/ Rand Paul
Rand Paul
United States Senator

/s/ Kyrsten Sinema
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

/s/ Shelley Moore Capito
Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher A. Coons
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

/s/ John Barrasso
John Barrasso
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/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Mike Rounds
Mike Rounds
United States Senator

/s/ Jacky Rosen
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

/s/ Bill Cassidy
Bill Cassidy
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Jerry Moran
Jerry Moran
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Thom Tillis
Thom Tillis
United States Senator

/s/ Jon Tester
Jon Tester
United States Senator

/s/ Cindy Hyde-Smith
Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Duckworth
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

/s/ James Inhofe
James Inhofe
United States Senator

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

/s/ Josh Hawley
Josh Hawley
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Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ David Perdue
David Perdue
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/s/ Chris Van Hollen
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United States Senator

/s/ Sheldon Whitehouse
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Sherrod Brown
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Catherine Cortez Masto
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

/s/ Mark Kelly
Mark Kelly
United States Senator