

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
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:

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we want to thank you for your efforts to ensure access to health care for patients and to ensure that physicians and specialists around the country have been able to continue operations during this pandemic. However, we are becoming increasingly concerned about looming cuts facing many specialists, which are expected to go into effect beginning on January 1, 2021.

On December 1, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) published the final rule for the CY2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, which increased rates for the office-based evaluation and management (E/M) code set in CY2021. Due to the requirement for budget neutrality, this will result in sizable cuts for over thirty healthcare specialties. While we are supportive of the increases for the office-based E/M code set, the resulting cuts are ill-conceived in the middle of a pandemic. Even without these cuts, too many practices are struggling, even as patients need access to health care now more than ever.

We are aware of solutions to either waive budget neutrality requirements (H.R. 8505) or to hold specialists harmless (H.R. 8702). While not perfect, either of these solutions would give healthcare specialists the financial security they need to weather the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, we urge you to include a provision in the end of year spending package to prevent these reckless cuts from taking effect, while allowing the increases to proceed as scheduled on January 1, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If we can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

/s/
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

/s/
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

/s/
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

/s/
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

/s/
David Scott
Member of Congress

/s/
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

/s/
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
André Carson
Member of Congress

/s/
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

/s/
Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress

/s/
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

/s/
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

/s/
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

/s/
Alma Adams
Member of Congress

/s/
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

/s/
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

/s/
Al Lawson
Member of Congress

/s/
Colin Allred
Member of Congress

/s/
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

/s/
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress