

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 11, 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:

Thank you for your continuing efforts to provide our healthcare specialists with much-needed and meaningful aid to allow them to continue operations during this pandemic. However, it has come to our attention that many specialists are being targeted for ill-conceived and sizeable cuts that simply no longer make sense to implement.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) final CY2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule rule published in November 2019 increased rates for the office-based evaluation and management (E/M) code set in CY2021. Due to the requirement for budget neutrality, this would result in a significant cut for many providers, across multiple specialties, beginning on January 1, 2021.

If these cuts go into effect, they will be devastating for providers and will ultimately result in decreased access to care for patients. Our healthcare system is already under tremendous financial strain, as it continues to grapple with both the economic and health consequences of the coronavirus. Now is not the time to implement these reckless cuts.

We ask that, in any upcoming and relevant legislation moving through the House, you waive budget neutrality for Calendar Years 2021 and 2022 for the E/M codes scheduled for implementation on January 1, 2021 as described in the final rule (84. Fed. Reg. 62568, 62847-62860). We also request that CMS reports to Congress on the overarching effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Specifically, Congress should require CMS to study how COVID-19 has impacted access to critical health services in underserved urban and rural Health Professional Shortage Areas, as well as the impact on providers of failing to waive budget neutrality associated with the E/M policy.

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/  
Don Young  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress

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

/s/  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
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/  
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

/s/  
John Shimkus  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

/s/  
James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

/s/  
David Loebsack  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

/s/  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Glenn “GT” Thompson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

/s/  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

/s/  
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress

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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress

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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

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Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress

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Julia Brownley  
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Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

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Rodney Davis  
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Derek Kilmer  
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Ann M. Kuster  
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Alan S. Lowenthal  
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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

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Robin L. Kelly  
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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress

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Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

/s/  
David Rouzer  
Member of Congress

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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

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Jack Bergman  
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Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

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Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

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Josh Gottheimer  
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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

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Al Lawson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

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Greg Gianforte  
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Joseph D. Morelle  
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Susan Wild  
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Colin Z. Allred  
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Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress

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Cynthia Axne  
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Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress

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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Angie Craig  
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Sharice L. Davids  
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Lizzie Fletcher  
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Anthony Gonzalez  
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Lance Gooden  
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Mark E. Green, M.D.  
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Chrissy Houlahan  
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Andy Kim  
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Chris Pappas  
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Greg Stanton  
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Jefferson Van Drew  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

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Jenniffer González-Colón  
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Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

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Steve King  
Member of Congress

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Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress