



## COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

March 15, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) appreciates your continued efforts to combat and address the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. Unfortunately, our health care system is still working to recover from the adverse economic effects of the pandemic and now is not the time to add additional stress to the system. The impending expiration of the 2% Medicare sequester moratorium at the end of the month will add unnecessary stress if not addressed.

As pathologists are the physician specialists who diagnose disease, CAP members and the laboratories they direct have worked tirelessly since the coronavirus outbreak to bring new COVID-19 tests online in communities throughout the United States. The pressures faced by pathologists and the rest of the laboratory workforce have increased over the course of the pandemic. Now more than ever, patients and their treating physicians are relying on the expertise of pathologists to meet increasing diagnostic testing needs and achieve healthier outcomes for all Americans.

At the outset of the pandemic Congress took the appropriate action in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 to further postpone the Medicare sequester until March 31, 2021. While we all hoped the COVID-19 pandemic would be under control it is now clear that it will extend further into this year and well beyond the end of the month. The removal of this financial threat is the most prudent step. Bipartisan legislative proposals are under consideration in the House and Senate. We hope Congress will make the decision to extend the sequester moratorium.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important issue to the physician community and the patients we serve. Please contact Michael Giuliani via email at [mgiulila@cap.org](mailto:mgiulila@cap.org) or via phone at (443) 510-3039 if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Patrick E. Godbey MD, FCAP  
President