



Physicians Caring for Texans

February 22, 2024

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Reverse the 2024 Medicare Physician Payment Cut

Dear Senators Cornyn and Cruz:

On behalf of our more than 57,000 Texas physician and medical student members, the Texas Medical Association (TMA) writes urging you to pass legislation to reverse the 3.37% Medicare physician payment cuts that took effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

The inability of Congress to meaningfully address our flawed Medicare physician payment policies, combined with rising costs, critically threatens our Medicare patients' access to health care. TMA appreciates that your colleagues, Sens. John Boozman (R-AR) and Peter Welch (D-VT) recently circulated a letter that calls on Senate leadership to address these devastating payment reductions in Medicare physician payment.

The need is urgent: The concerns you've heard reiterated that some practices are already having to limit the number of Medicare patients they see, or the types of services they offer – especially smaller, independent practices in rural and underserved areas – are becoming an even harsher reality. TMA already has begun to receive reports of practice closures and difficulties referring Medicare patients due to the pressures of the current Medicare payment system.

TMA implores you to sign this letter and reverse this cut. Texas physicians and the patients they treat deserve a stable and predicable Medicare physician payment system.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have questions, please contact Clayton Stewart, TMA vice president of public affairs and chief lobbyist, at clayton.stewart@texmed.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick W. Snyder, II".

Richard W. "Rick" Snyder, II, MD
President
Texas Medical Association