



Physicians Caring for Texans

April 11, 2024

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

Submitted via email to Statementsfortherecord@finance.senate.gov

RE: Statement for the record on Bolstering Chronic Care through Medicare Physician Payment

Dear Senator Cornyn,

On behalf of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) and our more than 57,000 physician and medical student members, we appreciate that the United States Senate Committee on Finance is conducting the Bolstering Chronic Care through Medicare Physician Payment [hearing](#) on April 11.

As you know, Congress was unable to avert the full Medicare cut to participating physicians in 2024. Rather than address the full 3.37% pay cut, Congress mitigated the cut to about 1.68% for services rendered on and after March 9. This latest cut especially stings after a full 2% cut occurred in Medicare physician payments in 2023. Further, when adjusted for inflation prior to the 1.68% relief in the 2024 budget deal, the payment rate to physicians who care for Medicare patients was 30% less than it was in 2001¹.

As TMA has communicated before, the inability of Congress to meaningfully address flawed Medicare physician payment policies, combined with rising costs, critically threatens our Medicare patients' access to health care. The concerns you've heard reiterated that some practices already are 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 stand for Texas patients and their physicians and seek legislation that provides for a positive, stable, and predictable Medicare physician payment system.

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

Sincerely,

¹ <https://www.ama-assn.org/sites/ama-assn.org/files/2024-02/2024-medicare-updates-inflation-chart.jpg>



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