

December 13, 2022

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

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

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

We are writing on behalf of critical care physicians, also known as intensivists, to express our strong opposition to pending cuts to Medicare payments for our services.

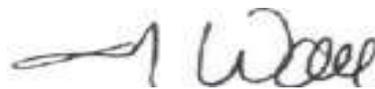
Our unique medical specialty is highly educated and specially trained to work in hospital intensive care units (ICU) where we provide advanced life support, specialized monitoring and sophisticated, high-level medical care to patients with life-threatening health conditions. Although our specialty has been in existence since the 1950s, in recent years we have been most closely associated in the mind of the public with the care of critically-ill COVID-19 patients. At the pandemic's worst from 2019 through 2021, and even today, we have cared for some of the most medically challenging patients seen in the years since our specialty was created. Notably, we care for at-risk Medicare beneficiaries with multiple medical co-morbidities and life-long ailments, all in the most high-risk environments. We remain proud of our work on the front-lines of COVID-19 and of our resilience during the historic COVID-19 health care crisis.

Congress must work to ensure that there is sufficient economic support, especially from Medicare, to ensure patients' access to high-quality critical care services. Disappointingly, Medicare payments for critical care services are already broken. Payment freezes and meager updates over the years have resulted in current payment rates that are insufficient. In the current economic environment of high inflation, this is even more true. We find it unthinkable that Congress is considering Medicare payment cuts for critical care and other physician services.

We urge you to support critical care physicians and the patients that we care for by acting expeditiously to stop any Medicare physician payment cuts.



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