



Charlene MacDonald  
Executive Vice President, Public Affairs

October 30, 2024

The Honorable Greg Murphy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
407 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Murphy,

The Federation of American Hospitals (FAH) appreciates your leadership in averting physician payment cuts and is pleased to endorse the *Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act of 2024*. Your bill would help ensure more fair provider payment by eliminating the scheduled 2.8% cut to the Physician Fee Schedule in 2025.

The FAH is the national representative of nearly 1,000 leading tax-paying hospitals and health systems throughout the United States. FAH members provide patients and communities with access to high quality, affordable care in both urban and rural areas across 46 states, plus Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. Our members include teaching, acute, inpatient rehabilitation, behavioral health, and long-term care hospitals and provide a wide range of inpatient, ambulatory, post-acute, emergency, children's, and cancer services.

Both the Medicare Physician Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) and Medicare Trustees warn that the growing gap between Medicare physician payment rates and the actual cost of furnishing quality care may result in access to care problems for Medicare beneficiaries. The FAH and our members share these concerns. The impact of these cuts would be exacerbated by the growth in the cost of delivering health care services, as evidenced by the fact that CMS projects a 3.6 percent Medicare Economic Index (MEI) increase for 2025. Simply put, cuts to physician payment are unsustainable and continue to put access to patient care at risk.

**We urge Congress to pass the *Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act of 2024* to avert the scheduled 2.8% cut and to develop a longer-term approach that provides adequate reimbursement for physicians' services, while also preserving patient access to hospital care.**

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We look forward to working with you on this important matter. If you have any questions or wish to speak further, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at (202) 615-0599.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ch. Me". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "M".