



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

November 9, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Extension of sequestration relief

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

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine (the “Alliance”) represents more than 100,000 specialty physicians and is dedicated to the development of sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. On behalf of our members, thank you for the relief you provided to our nation’s frontline healthcare providers in the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. Programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program and the Provider Relief Fund helped stabilize our nation’s medical practices throughout this unprecedented year.

When the CARES Act was enacted in March, all of us fervently hoped that the worst of this pandemic would be behind us by year’s end but, unfortunately, second and third waves are currently sweeping many nations, including ours. As such, we are writing to **urge you to extend the Medicare sequestration relief provided in the CARES Act**. Section 3709 provided a temporary suspension of Medicare sequestration from May 1, 2020 through the end of the calendar year. This provision has provided critical relief at a time when our provider community is suffering severe financial losses due to the drastic decreases in non-COVID-related and non-emergency care. Additionally, even though physician practices continue to experience significantly reduced patient volume, they have also incurred large expenses to ensure that they can safely accommodate patients who need care.

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American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery • American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery • American College of Osteopathic Surgeons • American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association • American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery • American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Plastic Surgeons • American Society of Retina Specialists • American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations • Congress of Neurological Surgeons • National Association of Spine Specialists

Unfortunately, we have not yet come to the end of this public health emergency, or its economic fallout. Medicare providers will continue to struggle with the financial implications of COVID well into 2021 and cannot bear a 2% reimbursement cut in addition to the losses they've sustained throughout this year. Thus, we hope that you will enact legislation to extend the CARES Act's suspension of Medicare sequestration through the duration of the public health emergency.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact any of the undersigned organizations.

Sincerely,

American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
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