



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

November 11, 2020

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD  
1727 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support for the  *Holding Providers Harmless From Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020***

Dear Representatives Bera and Bucshon:

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. As patient and physician advocates, **we thank you for introducing the  *Holding Providers Harmless From Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020 (H.R.8702)***. This important legislation will avert significant Medicare Physician Fee Schedule reimbursement cuts that would negatively impact many physician specialties.

On January 1, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) plans to implement changes to the codes for office and outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) services, which is triggering a budget neutrality adjustment that will result in large reductions in reimbursements for many Medicare providers. Due to the budget neutrality adjustment, some of the Alliance’s member specialties face cuts as high as 7%.

While our organizations participated in the process and support the improved values for E/M services, we are deeply concerned that the steep cuts resulting from budget neutrality will negatively impact Medicare providers who are already under financial distress due to the pandemic. H.R.8702 leaves intact the positive updates to office and outpatient E/M services while also ensuring that those providers negatively affected by budget neutrality are held harmless.

The Alliance supports the balance struck by H.R.8702. On behalf of specialists and the Medicare beneficiaries we serve, thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Specialty Medicine

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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