



September 13, 2022

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
172 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bera and Bucshon:

On behalf of the 84,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), thank you for introducing the *Supporting Medicare Providers Act of 2022* (H.R. 8800). ACS supports this bipartisan legislation that provides a critical lifeline to surgeons facing drastic Medicare payment cuts beginning in January 2023.

It is essential that Congress act this year to stabilize physician payment in the near term as we continue to work together on long-term reforms. Unfortunately, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) policies continue to cut surgical services, threatening patient access to essential treatment. The Calendar Year 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule once again jeopardizes the financial stability of many surgical practices by proposing to cut the Medicare conversion factor by approximately 4.5 percent. These cuts, compounded by the 4 percent Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) cut and years of stagnant payment, are simply not sustainable.

The *Supporting Medicare Providers Act of 2022* would extend vital relief to surgeons and other health care professionals as they strive to serve patients amid high inflation and increasing practice expenses. While ACS believes that broader reforms to ensure long-term stability of the Medicare payment system are necessary, ACS supports these efforts to provide immediate relief to surgical practices facing financial uncertainty. Thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working together toward enactment of this crucial legislation and finding solutions to address the long-term stability of the Medicare payment system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Turner", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Patricia L. Turner, MD, MBA, FACS
Executive Director

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