

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

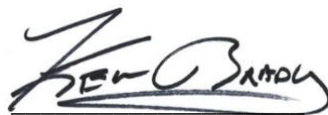
Dear Chairman Neal:

We write to encourage you to schedule a full Ways and Means Committee hearing on issues related to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and how the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency is continuing to impact health care providers. Together, we should examine the payment changes that could impact physicians and health care professionals— and thereby Medicare beneficiaries’ access to health care— in the coming year.

To help ensure continued access to care for seniors during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), Republicans and Democrats mitigated the impact of scheduled payment cuts through a series of policies in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (Public Law No. 116-260), including a one-time 3.75 percent payment plus up to all PFS services. As you know, that piece of relief is set to expire at the end of this year. Meanwhile, new payment changes have been proposed as part of the Calendar Year 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Fortunately, the development and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics have shifted the challenges of the PHE in 2021 and 2022. Yet, this committee should still examine the state of provider reimbursement as not to put patient access to care at risk.

During the Ways and Means markup held on September 10, 2021, you promised to work with Ways and Means Republicans to address upcoming payment changes in the PFS. As the legislative process for this crippling partisan tax and spending reconciliation bill has dragged on, we have observed that other critical end of year priorities have been added to the reconciliation framework. However, to date, the issues around provider reimbursement during the PHE have remained unaddressed. **If the stability of health care providers is in fact still a priority for you, we urge you to follow through on your promise and hold a hearing that we can discuss a legislative path forward to maintain patient access to providers.**

Sincerely,



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Committee on Ways & Means



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Committee on Ways & Means



Vern Buchanan
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Adrian Smith
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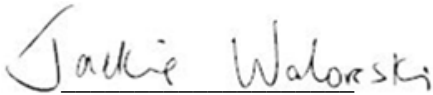
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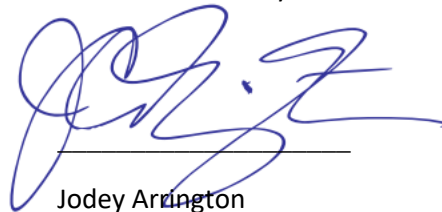
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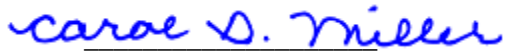
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