

Dear Representative:

As a practicing allergist, I am writing to urge you to support Congressional intervention to ensure that Medicare payments to physicians and other healthcare professionals are sufficient to cover the cost of providing care.

Our medical practices face the same financial challenges as other businesses. Historic inflation has increased our staffing and overhead costs. However, reimbursements from government and commercial payers have not kept pace with our expenses.¹ Since 2001, inflation has outpaced Medicare reimbursements by 26 percent.² This issue is larger than it seems given the fact that most commercial payers base their reimbursement rates on the Medicare rate.

Additionally, our medical practices incur added costs to comply with various regulatory and administrative requirements from commercial and government payers. By not receiving reimbursement for these requirements, they become unfunded mandates that compound the impact of inadequate reimbursement rates. For example, medical practices do not receive added reimbursement to defray the costs of hiring more staff to comply with the No Surprises Act or to handle overburdensome prior authorization requirements from commercial health plans.

Research has shown that many physicians have left the clinical workforce before full retirement age due to these financial and administrative challenges. A recent survey from the Physicians Foundation ([part 2](#) and [part 3](#)) further highlight the burdens physicians and practices face in greater detail.

We urge you to support H.R. 2474, the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act,³ a bipartisan bill which would help address this issue by providing an annual inflationary update to Medicare reimbursements.

Physicians have suffered from years of under-reimbursement and payment reductions. Stop making us the cut! Help fix physician payments.

Your support for ensuring physicians and other health professionals receive Medicare payments - sufficient to cover the cost of providing care to these patients - is greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to call on me if you need any additional information or would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Your name
HOME address



¹ <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/clinic-staffing-costs-up-10-this-year>

² <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/medicare-medicaid/medicare-physician-pay-must-track-inflation-every-year>

³ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2474/text?s=1&r=1&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+2474%22%5D%7D>