

November 5, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

The Honorable Greg Murphy
United States House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
United States House of Representatives
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Murphy and Panetta,

On behalf of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP), I write to express support for H.R.10073, the *Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act*. This legislation would avert cuts to Medicare physician payments in 2025 and instead provide a much-needed increase.


ACOFP is the professional organization representing more than 26,000 practicing osteopathic family physicians, residents, and students throughout the United States who are deeply committed to advancing our nation's health care system by improving health care delivery and outcomes and ensuring that patients have access to high-quality care.

Physicians face an increasingly challenging environment providing Medicare beneficiaries with access to care. Osteopathic family physicians are essential to the nation's public health system and play a critical role in providing care to Medicare beneficiaries. Despite osteopathic family physicians' contributions to patient care and public health, they have been forced to contend with Medicare payments that do not cover the cost of providing care. Medicare payment that fails to keep pace with the increasing cost of providing care has created an unstable financial environment for osteopathic family physicians. Many of our solo, independent, and rural members have been struggling to remain open. These practices do not have the resources to weather an economic downturn, and, as you know, once a primary care physician office closes in a community, it is very difficult to attract new physicians to serve that community.

The *Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act* would provide a 4.73 percent payment update starting in 2025. This update would eliminate the impending 2.8 percent payment cut and instead provide a 1.93 percent increase. We support this legislation, which is critically important given the serious financial impact this looming cut would have on the ability of osteopathic family physicians to continue providing care to patients.

Thank you for your commitment to addressing this important issue. We look forward to working with you in advancing this legislation. Should you need any additional information or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact ACOFP at advocacy@acofp.org or (847) 952-5100.

Sincerely,



Brian Kessler, DO, DHA, FCOFP *dist.*
President, ACOFP