



Jan 31, 2022

Specialty Stakeholders Urge Support for Bipartisan Rush-Bilirakis Letter To Reverse Clinical Labor Cuts

Broad coalition urges fix in the omnibus appropriations legislation

18 stakeholder groups are asking members of Congress to sign the bipartisan letter being circulated by Representatives Bobby L. Rush (D-IL) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) that asks congressional leadership to reverse the CMS-directed clinical labor cuts in the omnibus appropriations legislation. [See text of letter here.](#)

On November 19, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the CY22 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) final rule, which contains huge 20 percent cuts to specialty providers as a result of the so-called “clinical labor” update. These cuts follow on the heels of the CY21 PFS final rule which included an across the board cut to the conversion factor of 10 percent.

While, S. 610, the Protecting Medicare and American Farmers from Sequester Cuts Act, passed in December of 2021, provided one-year of relief from most of the 3.75% cut to the conversion factor that was scheduled to take place on January 1, 2022, cuts of more than 20% for office-based specialists under the 2022 Physician Fee Schedule were left unaddressed.

These “clinical labor” cuts are the most significant negative impact of the 2022 Physician Fee Schedule by far and threaten to undermine efforts to address health inequity, the acceleration of health system consolidation, and weaken our ability to deal with the pandemic. Furthermore, as these combined cuts are phased-in over the next four years, they will do lasting damage to specialty providers under the PFS and increase overall Medicare spending and patient copays as patients are forced to seek care in higher cost sites-of-service.

Specialty care stakeholders are urging all members of Congress to work in a bipartisan fashion to provide relief to office-based specialists to provide relief from 2022 Physician Fee Schedule clinical labor cuts and work on fundamental reform of the Physician Fee Schedule.

[Specialty provider stakeholders in support of the bipartisan letter:](#)

Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation
American College of Radiation Oncology
American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
American Vein & Lymphatic Society
American Venous Forum
Association of Black Cardiologists
CardioVascular Coalition
Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition
The Fibroid Coalition
Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Renal Physicians Association
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions
Society of Interventional Radiology
Society for Vascular Medicine
United Specialists for Patient Access