



December 12, 2022

The Honorable John Kennedy
Russell Senate Office Building 416
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: *Protecting Medicare Patients and Physicians Act (S.5194)*

Senator Kennedy:

The Emergency Department Practice Management Association (EDPMA) thanks you for your leadership in introducing the *Protecting Medicare Patients and Physicians Act (S.5194)*, which would avert two major looming reductions to Medicare provider reimbursement and creates a call to action for Congress and the Administration to pursue long-term reform of Medicare physician payment.

EDPMA is the nation's only professional physician trade association focused on the delivery of high- quality, cost-effective care in the emergency department. EDPMA's membership includes emergency medicine physician groups of all sizes, as well as billing, coding, and other professional support organizations that assist healthcare providers in our nation's emergency departments. Together, EDPMA's members deliver or directly support health care for approximately half of the 146 million patients that visit U.S. emergency departments each year.

EDPMA thanks you for your introduction of legislation to fully offset all reductions facing Medicare providers in 2023. The *Protecting Medicare Patients and Physicians Act (S.5194)* would avert for one year two large reimbursement reductions facing providers in 2023: an almost 4.5% reduction to the 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule conversion factor and a 4% PAYGO sequestration resulting from passage of the *American Rescue Plan*. **A combined 8.5% cut would be devastating to emergency medicine physicians, who cover two-thirds of uninsured care and over half of Medicaid/CHIP care every year.** Annually recurring proposed reductions to Medicare reimbursement have created severe instability for medical practices, who are already struggling with record inflation, pandemic recovery, staff shortages, and increased administrative burdens.

For that reason, EDPMA appreciates that your legislation also calls on Congress and the Administration to commit to long-term reforms that would create stability for providers, which would in turn improve and stabilize access for beneficiaries. If we can provide any additional information or be of assistance as you work to advance S.5914, please reach out to our Executive Director, Cathey Wise, at cathey.wise@edpma.org.

Sincerely,

Don H. Powell, DO FACEP
Chair
Emergency Department Practice Management Association