



American College of Osteopathic Internists • Stay True to Why You Pursued Medicine

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Greg Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Murphy:

The American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI), representing the nation's osteopathic internists, medical subspecialists, fellows, residents, and students write to commend you for your leadership to address the unsustainable Medicare physician payment system and to express our strong support for the *Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act of 2025*.

As you are well aware, physicians who care for Medicare patients saw their reimbursement drop by 2.83 percent on January 1. That pay cut is compounded by the absence of a Medicare physician payment inflationary update despite a projected rise of 3.5 percent in the Medicare Economic Index. Further, since 2001, Medicare physician payment has fallen by 33 percent after adjusting for rising practice costs. The Medicare physician payment system is on an unstable path and it threatens beneficiary access to care, particularly for those living in rural areas.

ACOI appreciates your past leadership to support training of physicians in rural areas, but without adequate Medicare reimbursement, it is very difficult to recruit physicians to practice in rural areas, even if they complete their training there. Insurance companies often index their reimbursement rates off Medicare which means that when Medicare payments drop, the ripple effect damages the viability of physicians to practice in rural areas where need is often greatest.

ACOI endorses your legislation to halt the 2.83 percent cut and replace it with a positive adjustment of 6.62 percent effective April 1, 2025, through the remainder of the year. We urge Congress to act quickly to advance this legislation to provide relief from harmful Medicare payment cuts.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Tim McNichol, ACOI Deputy Executive Director, at tmcnichol@acoi.org or (301) 231-8877.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Enright', written in a cursive style.

Susan M. Enright, DO, MACOI
President, American College of Osteopathic Internists