

Today's patients are facing challenges accessing care due to the instability of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS). Congress can take immediate steps to help stabilize physician reimbursement and protect access by supporting these bipartisan bills.

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health recently held a hearing on the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and MACRA, highlighting growing bipartisan concern that continued payment instability threatens physician practices and patient access to care.

**The Provider Reimbursement
Stability Act (H.R. 8163)**

- Introduced by Reps. Murphy, MD; Suozzi; John Joyce, MD; Onder, MD; Schneider; Panetta; Miller-Meeks, MD; Schrier, MD; and Kelly to modernize outdated budget neutrality policies within the MPFS
- Recently passed the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously (44-0).
- Current budget neutrality requirements trigger automatic payment reductions whenever CMS updates valuation policies, creating unpredictable payment swings for physicians.
- Physicians have experienced more than a 10% reduction in Medicare payments over the past five years due to redistribution-related cuts tied to budget neutrality requirements.
- This legislation would improve payment predictability by updating the budget neutrality threshold, requiring corrections for inaccurate utilization estimates, ensuring regular updates to practice expense inputs, and limiting large year-to-year swings in physician reimbursement.
- Together, H.R. 8163 and H.R. 6160 represent targeted, complementary, bipartisan reforms designed to improve stability and predictability within the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.

- Failure to address these flawed payment rules jeopardizes continued access to essential dermatologic healthcare for these vulnerable patient populations who depend on Medicare.

**The Strengthening Medicare for
Patients & Providers Act (H.R. 6160)**

- Introduced by Reps Ruiz, MD and Bilirakis to prevent cuts to patients' access to care and address the growing instability of the MPFS and the urgent need for fair reimbursement
- Individuals who depend on Medicare are at serious risk of losing access to the physician care they need. Physicians, including dermatologic surgeons, are the only providers who do not receive a permanent annual inflationary update, even as practice costs continue to rise.
- Since 2001, Medicare physician reimbursement has fallen 33% behind inflation, steadily eroding the financial sustainability of physician practices.
- This legislation would provide an annual inflationary update for Medicare physician payment tied to the Medicare Economic Index (MEI), reflecting bipartisan acknowledgement that physicians need a stable, predictable payment system to sustain patient access to care.

Preserve patient access to dermatologic care by supporting systemic Medicare Reform to ensure patient access.