February XX, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

Speaker

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

Minority Leader

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer

Majority Leader

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell

Minority Leader

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

The American Medical Association and undersigned national specialty and state medical societies represent the vast majority of physicians practicing in the United States, many of whom continue to provide frontline care to Medicare patients as the COVID-19 global pandemic persists across the country. We are deeply concerned that persistently high COVID-19 rates will continue to stress the entire health care system, especially physician practices. To help alleviate the unrelenting fiscal demands of the pandemic, **we strongly urge Congress to pass legislation that would extend the congressionally enacted moratorium on Medicare sequester cuts through the duration of the public health emergency (PHE).**

We appreciate that Congress recognized early on during the pandemic the severe financial strain facing our nation’s health care system, including physician practices, and provided a much-needed reprieve from the two percent Medicare payment sequester through the remainder of 2020 in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. We also applaud Congress for including in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 an extension of the sequester moratorium until March 31, 2021. Even with the encouraging development and deployment of an effective vaccine, the fact remains that physician practices will continue to face overwhelming financial challenges and pressures associated with higher overhead costs (e.g., personal protective equipment) and lost revenue due to fewer patient visits and delayed elective procedures.

With the March 31 deadline looming, it is critical for Congress to take immediate steps to further postpone the imposition of the Medicare sequester. **We, therefore, strongly urge you to pass H.R. 315, the “Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act”—bipartisan legislation that would continue the current Medicare sequester moratorium for the duration of the PHE.**

Sincerely,

American Medical Association