



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

June 10, 2025

The Honorable Roger Marshall, MD
U.S. Senate
479A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Marshall:

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* (S. 1640).

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 (MEI). 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 strong commitment to improving rural health care. 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 through the remainder of the year. It is not too late for Congress to advance this legislation while also working to prevent cuts in the future by providing a permanent annual inflation adjustment to the Medicare physician fee schedule tied to the Medicare Economic Index.

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'.

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