



ASE American Society of Echocardiography

Heart & Circulation Ultrasound Specialists

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In the past few months ASE has more than doubled its allocation of resources for advocacy initiatives towards the battle to preserve Medicare reimbursement and the fight against private payer pre-certification for echocardiography, allowing the Society to:

- Partner with the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and the ACC in hiring a well-connected legislative firm to reach out to legislators.
- Conduct an in-depth analysis of CMS data and methodology.
- Meet with both legislative leaders and CMS representatives to plead our case.
- Launch extensive grassroots and public relations campaigns.
- Work to negotiate alternatives to onerous pre-certification requirements.
- Outline a plan for development of a point-of-order tool as an alternative to pre-certification.

Many of you, our members, made monetary contributions beyond your member dues specifically to help support these efforts.

ASE wants to be supportive of any effort that could positively affect the reversal of the proposed CMS cuts, and therefore has also made a substantial financial contribution to advance a lawsuit filed by the ACC against Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. [A recent story in USA Today](#) explains the lawsuit and the hopes the plaintiffs and supporters of it have for relief from very onerous cuts to Medicare reimbursement for cardiology.

Participation as a co-plaintiff on the ACC's lawsuit would have exposed the Society to a financial commitment which is expected to be considerable and, depending on a variety of trial outcomes, could be ongoing for an extended period of time. We have capped our contribution at an amount which still allows us to maintain a more diverse strategy in fighting these cuts. We plan to continue to have ongoing meetings with CMS, and to lobby on Capitol Hill for relief from a Physician Fee Schedule which, over the next four years, would have drastic implications for our members and the patients they serve.