



ASE

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

Sound Saves Lives

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Greg Murphy, MD
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD
1034 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Joyce, MD
152 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Carol Miller
465 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Claudia Tenney
2230 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD
172 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier, MD
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Murphy, Panetta, Miller-Meeks, Bera, Joyce, Ruiz, Miller, Schrier, Tenney, and Krishnamoorthi:

On behalf of the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE), I write to you today to voice support for the Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act (H.R. 879) and urge you to work with your colleagues in the House to pass this legislation to eliminate the 2.83% Medicare Physician Fee Schedule cut and provide an inflationary update for calendar year 2025. ASE is committed to supporting echocardiographers and other medical providers by ensuring fair reimbursement that keeps pace with inflation.

Medicare reimbursement cuts have created unprecedented challenges for echocardiographers, forcing difficult choices that impact both practice operations and patient care. To maintain financial viability, many practitioners must significantly increase their daily patient volumes, potentially compromising the quality time needed for thorough examinations and precise image optimization. Additionally, the continuous decline in Medicare reimbursements over recent years has pushed many physicians to take drastic measures: some limit their Medicare patient acceptance, others merge with hospital systems (ironically increasing overall Medicare program costs), while many choose early retirement and practice closure. These compounding challenges create a troubling cycle that threatens practice solvency, complicates staff retention and recruitment, and ultimately jeopardizes patients' access to essential cardiovascular care. The ripple

effects of these payment cuts extend far beyond individual practices, potentially reshaping the entire landscape of cardiovascular healthcare delivery.

ASE joins many others in the physician community in supporting this necessary piece of legislation. Physicians – including echocardiographers – want to be able to continue to provide high quality patient care, while being properly reimbursed for the services they provide.

Thank you in advance for your steadfast leadership and support of this critical issue. If the Society can ever serve as a resource, please reach out to Katherine Stark, ASE Director of Advocacy, at kstark@asecho.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Theodore Abraham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Theodore Abraham, MD
President