



American Society  
of Echocardiography

## MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM PHONE AND EMAIL SCRIPTS

**SUBJECT:**

Support Long-term Medicare Physician Payment Reform to Protect Patient Access

**EMAIL BODY:**

Dear [Senator/Representative Last Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I am a [echocardiographer/physician/sonographer] at [Institution] in [City, State]. I care for many Medicare patients with cardiovascular disease and am writing as your constituent to urge you to support comprehensive Medicare physician payment reform, including a permanent, inflation-based update tied to the Medicare Economic Index (MEI), such as in the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act.

Under the current Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, physician payment lacks a reliable inflationary update and is tightly constrained by budget neutrality, while practice costs for staff, technology, and compliance continue to rise. Repeated cuts and short-term patches have eroded the real value of physician payment, creating instability that makes it harder for practices to plan, invest, and continue seeing Medicare patients, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Echocardiography and cardiovascular practices are especially affected because many of our services are paid solely through the Physician Fee Schedule. When payment falls behind costs, it becomes difficult to recruit and retain staff, maintain echo lab operations, and upgrade essential imaging equipment, which ultimately threatens access to timely, high-quality cardiac care for Medicare beneficiaries.

A permanent annual update tied to the MEI would better reflect practice cost inflation and provide a predictable foundation for long-term planning. Specialty societies, including the American Society of Echocardiography and dozens of others from the House of Medicine, support this approach as a key step toward a more stable, patient centered Medicare payment system.

**I respectfully ask that you support legislation such as the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act, which would provide a permanent, MEI-linked update for Medicare physician payment, and work with the physician community on broader reforms to ensure that Medicare payment policy remains stable, evidence based and aligned with high-quality patient care.**

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to protecting access to care for Medicare patients.

Sincerely,