



American Society  
of Echocardiography

## MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM PHONE AND EMAIL SCRIPTS

### STEP 1: INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I am a [echocardiographer/ physician/ sonographer] at [Institution] in [City, State]. I'm a constituent of [Senator/Representative Last Name].

May I speak with the staffer handling health or Labor-HHS appropriations?

If they are not available, ask if you can leave a message.

### STEP 2: CLEAR FUNDING ASK

I am calling to urge [Senator/Representative Last Name] to support comprehensive Medicare physician payment reform, including modernizing the outdated budget neutrality rules of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule by cosponsoring the Provider Reimbursement Stability Act (H.R. 8163).

Stable, predictable updates are critical to preserving access to care for Medicare patients and preventing further cuts that threaten community practices.

### STEP 3: PROVIDE 'THE WHY'

**Pick one or two and expand with your personal experience.**

#### **Payment not keeping up with costs**

- Unlike hospitals and other providers, physicians do not have a permanent inflationary update in Medicare, even as staffing, technology, and compliance costs continue to rise.
- Repeated cuts and small, temporary fixes make it difficult for practices to budget and invest in patient care.

#### **Impact on patient access and workforce**

- Ongoing payment instability forces some practices to limit Medicare patients, consolidate with larger systems, or close, especially in rural and underserved areas.
- This undermines continuity of care and makes it harder for seniors to find timely appointments with specialists, including cardiologists and echocardiographers.

#### **Echocardiography and cardiovascular care**

- Echocardiography services depend heavily on MPFS rates, so instability in physician payment directly affects our ability to maintain staff, upgrade equipment, and keep access open.
- Stable payment policy allows us to focus on quality, innovation, and patient outcomes rather than constant budget cuts.

#### **Budget neutrality reform as a solution**

- The Provider Reimbursement Stability Act (H.R. 8163) would update the budget neutrality threshold to present-day values and index it to inflation, require CMS to check its cost estimates against actual utilization data and make corrections, prevent year-to-year payment swings greater than 2.5%, and require more frequent and accurate cost inputs.
- It is a bipartisan, patient centered way to bring stability and accuracy to Medicare payment for both patients and providers.

### STEP 4: CLOSE WITH A DIRECT ASK

Please support legislation that modernizes the budget neutrality rules of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, such as the Provider Reimbursement Stability Act (H.R. 8163), and work with your colleagues on broader physician payment reform. *[For Senate offices: urge the Senator to work with colleagues to introduce companion legislation]*

I would be happy to serve as a resource to your office on echocardiography and cardiovascular patient care.

Thank you for your time and for your work on behalf of Medicare patients.