



American Society
of Echocardiography

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM EMAIL SCRIPT

SUBJECT:

Support the Provider Reimbursement Stability Act (H.R. 8163 / S.5180) and 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as your constituent to urge you to support comprehensive Medicare physician payment reform, including modernizing the outdated budget neutrality rules of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule through the Provider Reimbursement Stability Act (H.R. 8163 / S.5180).

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.

The Provider Reimbursement Stability Act (H.R. 8163 / S.5180) would modernize the budget neutrality mechanism that drives many of these cuts by updating the payment threshold to present-day values and indexing it to inflation, requiring CMS to compare its cost estimates with actual utilization data and make correction adjustments, preventing year-to-year payment changes greater than 2.5%, and requiring more frequent and accurate cost inputs when valuing services. 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 cosponsor and support the Provider Reimbursement Stability Act (H.R. 8163 / S.5180), which would bring stability, transparency, and accuracy to 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,