

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 8, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

We write to you today to request immediate relief for our frontline health care providers. As we continue our ongoing work to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to extend the current moratorium on Medicare sequestration and the 2021 Medicare physician payment adjustment through the end of the public health emergency.

Despite continuous progress to vaccinate Americans, COVID-19 continues to strain the resources of our providers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the 7-day moving average of daily new cases remains well above 80,000. Hospitalizations similarly increased by a corresponding 5 percent. In several states, the availability of intensive care beds is dwindling. As winter sets in, cases are likely to continue to rise as families stay indoors and travel for the upcoming holiday season. We are also hearing concerning reports about the potential impact of the Omicron variant, which the World Health Organization recently warned poses a very high risk of global spread, and which has already been reported in five states in the U.S.

Both the current moratorium on Medicare sequestration and the 2021 Medicare physician payment adjustment of 3.75 percent are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2021. Without immediate Congressional action, these changes will result in a 5.75 percent reduction in provider payments and billions lost in vital funding. These cuts will begin just as providers are likely to see a surge of patients in the new year.

As we continue our work through the end of the year, we urge you to ensure that the moratorium on sequestration and the 2021 Medicare physician payment adjustment are extended through the end of the public health emergency. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Susan Collins
United States Senator

/s
Maggie Hassan
United States Senator

/s
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

/s
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

/s
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

/s
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s
Alex Padilla
United States Senator

/s
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s
Mark Kelly
United States Senator

/s
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s
Roger Marshall
United States Senator

/s
Jerry Moran
United States Senator

/s
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

/s
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

/s
Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s
Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

/s
Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

/s
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator