

On behalf of the Florida Medical Association and the 22,000 physicians we represent, we are writing to urge you to help stop the 3.4% Medicare physician pay cut that is scheduled to take effect in 2024.

From 2001 to 2023, Medicare physician pay declined 26% after adjusting for inflation in terms of practice costs. Future statutory updates to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule are also not projected to keep pace with rising inflation. The Medicare Trustees have cited these continuously declining Medicare physician pay rates as a long-term threat to access to care. As a state that is home to roughly 5 million Medicare beneficiaries and a growing physician shortage, it is imperative that Medicare beneficiaries continue to enjoy robust access to high-quality health care. It is crucial that Medicare rates are economically sustainable so that Florida can attract and retain physicians, and so that medical practices are not forced to limit the number of Medicare beneficiaries they serve.

While Medicare also requires long-term reforms to ensure the program remains economically viable for medical practices in the years to come, stopping this imminent 3.4% Medicare pay cut is of immediate importance, particularly given that medical practice inflation is projected to be 4.6% next year.

We therefore respectfully urge you to help stop this 3.4% physician pay cut from taking effect in 2024. We additionally urge you to prioritize reforming the Medicare payment system to provide sustainable, positive updates that keep pace with inflation to prevent a similar crisis from occurring in the future.

Sincerely,



Jason M. Goldman, MD, FACP
President, Florida Medical Association