

October 26, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

I write to you today regarding a matter of great urgency to Medicare professionals and their patients in Montana. As you know, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued proposed payment policies for evaluation and management (E/M) services in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) for 2021. While this proposal includes several positive attributes, many practitioners in Montana will face substantial Medicare payment cuts beginning on January 1, 2021. In light of the ongoing pandemic, I urge you to include provisions that will extend relief to providers slated to experience cuts related to CMS' E/M policies in legislation before the end of the year.

I have heard from Montanans that these payment cuts will further strain our state's health care system and practitioners already stressed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and could also jeopardize patient access to medically necessary services over the long-term. I stand ready to work with you to prevent these harmful cuts and support Montana's physicians and other health care professionals who are on the frontlines of this pandemic to continue ensuring Montanans across the state can access necessary medical services.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and for your continued leadership during this public health crisis.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator

CC: Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden