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October 8, 2020

The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD  
2161 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Rush  
2188 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Burgess and Rush:

The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) highly commends you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 8505, a bill to prevent proposed Medicare payment cuts planned by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Your legislation would stop the planned reductions in physician services by waiving the budget neutrality requirements stipulated in Section 1848(c)(2) of the Social Security Act. In light of the ongoing public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe that it is critical that additional disruptions to normal physician services provided to Medicare eligible patients not be allowed to go into effect. Not halting the implementation of these proposed payment reductions would result in further harm and aggravate the financial instability of health care provider practices across the nation.

As you are aware, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) final Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) rule for CY 2020 contains significant changes especially as it relates to E/M services, among others. This important legislation will provide a critical reprieve to a broad range of physician and non-physician health care providers facing these substantial payment reductions expected to be implemented on January 1, 2021. We are deeply concerned that adhering to existing budget neutrality requirements for implementing the new policy will generate sizable cuts for interventional cardiologists and various sections of the provider community. These cuts will further restrict access to the many essential health care services our members provide to Medicare beneficiaries at a time of diminishing access caused by the pandemic.

Finally, with only a few legislative days remaining in 2020, we urge your continued bi-partisan collaboration with your colleagues and leadership to advance H.R. 8505. Given this short window, we offer our support to work with House Leadership to include this critical measure in the next available legislative package.

We look forward to working with you to solve this problem before the end of the year. If you have any questions, please contact Curtis Rooney, Vice President, Government Relations (crooney@scai.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Grines".

Dr. Cindy Grines  
President  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI)

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Frank Pallone  
The Honorable Greg Walden