



## Physician reimbursement must change

Medicare is a lifeline for millions of older Americans, but the system that pays the physicians caring for them is no longer keeping pace with reality. The way Medicare currently reimburses providers is outdated and fails to meet physicians' needs. Payment rates have not kept pace with inflation or the rising costs of patient care, placing increasing financial strain on independent practices across the country.

Meanwhile, red tape and reporting requirements are diverting valuable physician time away from the exam room.

This combination is pushing an already limited healthcare workforce to its limits. Without action, more practices will struggle to stay open, and patients will face even greater barriers to care.

Fortunately, Congress has an opportunity to modernize this broken system. Reform should include annual inflationary updates, support for high-value care, and meaningful simplification of burdensome regulations. I urge the Rhode Island delegation to make Medicare payment reform a priority. Preserving access to care and protecting the future of Medicare depends on it.

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