

## **Cosponsor H.R. 8163 - the Provider Reimbursement Stability Act of 2026**

**Sponsors Reps: Greg Murphy, John Joyce, Kim Schrier, Bob Onder, Brad Schneider, Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Robin Kelly, Tom Suozzi, Jimmy Panetta**

**Issue:** Ensure that Medicare payment policies strengthen patient access to primary care and support the viability of physician practices under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS).

**Why is Action Needed:** Medicare physician payments have failed to keep pace with the rising costs of patient care. Despite longstanding advocacy, Congress has not established a stable, adequate update mechanism for the PFS. When adjusted for inflation, physician payment has [declined](#) by 33% from 2001-2025.

In addition to a lack of inflationary updates, federal law requires that increases in payment to any service within the PFS must be offset by arbitrary across the board payment cuts to all services in the PFS. This mandate, known as budget neutrality, has caused annual physician payment cuts since 2021.

These challenges are particularly acute for primary care. Internal medicine physicians provide comprehensive, continuous care; manage complex chronic conditions; and improve patient outcomes and longevity. Yet primary care services remain undervalued in the PFS.

**ACP's position:** We urge Congress to provide a positive update to the PFS annually. We also ask Congress to enact comprehensive structural reforms to the PFS that improve access to primary care services and prevent annual across-the-board cuts to physician services.

ACP supports the Provider Reimbursement Stability Act of 2026, H.R. 8163, that would help strengthen and stabilize the Medicare payment system by reducing the annual payment cuts in the fee schedule due to the budget neutrality mandate. It would increase the threshold for the enactment of budget neutrality cuts from \$20 million to \$54.3 million and use cumulative increases in the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) to update the threshold every five years afterwards.

### **Call to Action:**

- We urge Representatives to cosponsor and pass H.R. 8163, the Provider Reimbursement Stability Act of 2026.
- We urge Senators to introduce and pass this legislation in the Senate.