

December 14, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy:

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) is the nation's oldest and largest brain injury patient advocacy organization. Our mission is to advance awareness, research, treatment and education for the 2.5 million children and adults who sustain traumatic brain injuries in the United States each year. On their behalf, ***we urge you to advance H.R. 8702/S. 5007, the Holding Providers Harmless from Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020, in any end-of-year legislative package to protect patient access to critical health care services.***

This legislation, introduced by Reps. Ami Bera and Larry Bucshon in the House and Sens. John Boozman, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, Tom Cotton, and Susan Collins in the Senate, prevents drastic payment cuts for physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) physicians, critical therapists, and other providers essential to caring for patients with brain injury from going into effect on January 1, 2021, while protecting the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) proposed increases for primary care and other providers.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to avoid payment cuts that could inadvertently limit patient access to care or further exacerbate the financial instability of health care provider practices. As consumers of brain injury and other health care services, we urge you to pass this legislation to meet the needs of patients during this public health emergency. As these cuts are scheduled to begin in less than a month, it is crucial that Congress act now to ensure patients and providers are protected from this proposal.

BIAA is eager to see a long-term solution to the inequities in care caused by the budget neutrality requirements with the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and would be delighted to support further efforts in this regard. If you have any questions, please contact me at 703-761-0750 ext. 627 or by email to shconnors@biausa.org.

Sincerely,



Susan H. Connors
President/CEO