



May 27, 2026

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Herb Conaway, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Miller-Meeks and Conaway:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to express our appreciation and support for the Medicare Physician Data-Drive Performance Payment System Act of 2026 (the Act). This critical legislation seeks to modernize Medicare payments by reducing administrative burdens, improving patient care, and supporting small/rural practices through a more practical, data-driven approach.

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second-largest physician group in the United States. College members include 163,000 internal medicine physicians, related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Additionally, internal medicine is the specialty with the largest number of active physicians specializing in primary care, with 120,342 internal medicine physicians being identified as specializing in primary care in 2021.

The Act seeks to replace the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) created by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015 with a system designed to improve fairness, transparency, and clinical relevance while reducing unnecessary administrative burden. MIPS has disproportionately penalized small and rural practices. It has increased the administrative burden of compliance on those practices as well, while not effectively measuring quality and leading to more health inequities.

The legislation reforms include:

- Reducing excessive penalties and creating a more balanced payment structure;
- Reinvesting funds into quality improvement and support for under-resourced practices;
- Providing quarterly performance feedback so physicians can make real-time improvements;
- Increasing transparency in cost attribution to support better clinical decision-making;
- and,
- Protecting physicians from penalties when sufficient performance data is not provided.

ACP supports the Act which seeks to ensure measures are more clinically relevant and accurate, reducing the reporting burden on clinicians. The Act encourages the Centers for Medicare &

Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide data to physicians on a quarterly basis, rather than annually, to allow healthcare practitioners to improve performance on quality and cost measures, proactively. We are pleased that the Act seeks to replace broad, problematic cost measures with more targeted, episode-based cost measures. The Act proposes pay-for-reporting credit for three years for physicians who report new or significantly revised quality measures. ACP has [supported](#) the goal of CMS in the MIPS Value Pathway (MVP) to establish an option that moves the program away from a very individualistic method of reporting to a more holistic, episodic or condition-focused approach with a clear end goal of improving patient outcomes.

ACP has [urged](#) Congress, particularly the Senate Finance Committee, to exercise their oversight authority to urge CMS to simplify the scoring structure and reporting requirements under MIPS in order to fulfill Congress' intent of a more streamlined program that reduces burdens on physicians. Similarly, ACP has informed Congress that MIPS in general needs more relevant, accurate, and effective quality measurement, particularly measures based on patient outcomes. We have urged Congress to weigh in with CMS to reduce the number of measures required for full participation in the quality category of MIPS.

We thank you for your bipartisanship and leadership in introducing this important legislation to modernize the Medicare physician payment system by reducing administrative burdens on physicians and other healthcare practitioners and improving care for patients. We stand ready to provide our advocacy efforts to ensure that this bill moves forward in Congress. Should you have any questions, please contact George Lyons, Director of Legislative Affairs, at glyons@acponline.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jan K. Carney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jan K. Carney, MD, MPH, MACP, FRCP

President, American College of Physicians