

Private Practice Physical Therapists

Small business professionals restoring function to America - one patient at a time.

SUPPORT PHYSICAL THERAPISTS as SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS and ACCESS TO COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

RECOMMENDATION

The Private Practice Section (PPS) of the APTA urges Congress to pass the bipartisan *Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act* ([H.R.315/S.748](#)) which would delay the reinstatement of the 2% Medicare sequester until the public health emergency was revoked. This legislation provides a crucial reprieve from additional cuts to payment when providers and patients across the nation are still struggling with the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

BACKGROUND

Since 2011, Medicare payments have been subject to a 2% reduction, known as the Medicare sequester. In response to the pandemic in the spring of 2020, Congress put a hold on the 2% sequestration reduction through December 31, 2020. As part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 enacted on December 27, 2020, Congress delayed the restoration of the Medicare sequester through April 1, 2021. The Public Health Emergency has been extended to at least April 21, 2021.

PREVENT ADDITIONAL CUTS TO PHYSICAL THERAPY

Unfortunately, the pandemic has not waned; private practice physical therapists and other providers continue to struggle. They face the reinstatement of 2% revenue cuts when their operating margins remain suppressed. Enactment of this legislation would provide a lifeline to those providers and small business owners who are eager to continue to provide care but are barely able to keep their doors open due to reductions in both Medicare payment and patient volume while other costs are increasing.

PPS believes that it is crucial that Congress pass the *Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act* ([H.R.315/S.748](#)) in order to preserve access to critical physical therapy care. Private practice physical therapists provide cost-effective, safe physical therapy in community-based settings. In the midst of a public health emergency, an additional 2% reduction is likely to force providers to lay off staff, limit hours, or worse—yet close clinics permanently—significantly disrupting access to care as well as the local economy.

To **cosponsor H.R.315**, please contact Vic Goetz (vic.goetz@mail.house.gov) in Representative Brad Schneider's office or Kirsten Wing (kirsten.wing@mail.house.gov) in Representative David McKinley's office. To **cosponsor S.748**, please contact Peter Fise (peter_fise@shaheen.senate.gov) in Sen. Shaheen's office.