



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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February 27, 2025

Senator Ron Wyden
707 13th St SE Ste 285, Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Wyden,

We are reaching out to urge you to take swift action to address the upcoming cuts to Medicare physician payments.

As you know, Yamhill County is home to approximately 10,000 seniors who rely on Medicare coverage for health care services, and many seniors already face major barriers to care like access to transportation and a growing shortage of primary care physicians.

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Physicians implemented a 2.8% cut in pay under the proposed 2025 Medicare physician payment schedule beginning January 1, 2025. The proposal from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) follows a 1.69% Medicare pay cut in 2024 and 2% drop in 2023. These cuts in the face of the growing cost to operate a practice are unsustainable for physicians.

Our fear is that this additional cut will further exacerbate these barriers to care

We are asking you to sponsor H.R. 879, the "Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act," which would, effective April 1st, cancel the 2.83% payment cut that went into effect on January 1. It would also provide a 2.0% payment update, helping to stabilize physician practices and protect patients' access to care. It is crucial this bill be included in the next spending package passed by Congress.

As county commissioners, we have had conversations with seniors in our community who have voiced concern about being able to keep their doctors who they have seen for many years. Our senior constituents and our entire Board thank you for considering this request and your continued advocacy on behalf of seniors in our community.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners

Chair, Kit Johnston

Vice Chair, Mary Starrett

Commissioner, David "Bubba" King

Approved by the Yamhill County Board of
Commissioners on 2.27.2025
via Board Order 25-059