November 4, 2020

Representative Ami Bera, MD  Representative Larry Bucshon, MD  U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Brendan Boyle  Representative George Holding  U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Raul Ruiz, MD  Representative Phil Roe, MD  U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Abby Finkenauer  Representative Roger Marshall, MD  U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representatives Bera, Bucshon, Boyle, Holding, Ruiz, Roe, Finkenauer, Marshall:

On behalf of the members of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 8702, “the Holding Providers Harmless From Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020”. This important legislation will provide stability for otolaryngologists, their practices, and their patients by holding physicians harmless from planned Medicare payment cuts.

Proposed changes to Medicare’s reimbursement for evaluation and management (E/M) codes, which are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2021, will result in payment cuts for surgical services and procedures due to statutory requirements for budget neutrality under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. This ill-timed reduction would negatively impact physicians as they continue to struggle with the challenges of caring for their patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. H.R. 8702 would prevent cuts to Medicare payment for surgical services and procedures and instead provide temporary additional reimbursement to ensure 2020 Medicare payment levels are maintained for the next two years.

“The Holding Providers Harmless from Medicare Cuts During Covid-19 Act of 2020” would allow Medicare patients to continue to receive timely care and ensure physicians are not further strained during the ongoing pandemic. We applaud your leadership on this time sensitive issue. We look forward to
working with you to ensure passage of this legislation before the end of the year.

Sincerely,

James C. Denneny III

James C. Denneny III, MD
Executive Vice President/CEO

cc: Representative Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
   Representative Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader