



ASHA

American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

June 30, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write urging you to fully reverse the 2% Medicare Part B sequester cut to provider reimbursement that is scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2022.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 223,000 individuals who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students.

The Medicare sequestration cuts will reduce access to the hearing, balance, speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive care that audiologists and speech-language pathologists provide. Access to these services is further impaired by additional Medicare payment cuts including Statutory PAYGO and negative adjustments to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. In 2022, ASHA's members were facing unwarranted reductions to reimbursement—unrelated to the cost of providing care—that would have amounted to a 9% total cut to Medicare Part B payment rates had Congress not partially mitigated them.

ASHA is concerned that this payment reduction—combined with other Medicare Part B cuts providers continue to face—will negatively impact beneficiary access to care and will further erode the financial stability of audiology and speech-language pathology practices. Cuts to reimbursement prevents ASHA's members, and many other nonphysician and physician providers, from providing the necessary diagnostic and treatment services to ensure the health and well-being of America's seniors, resulting in unmet needs and higher health care costs.

ASHA urges you to fully reverse the 2% sequestration cuts to Medicare provider reimbursement to ensure continued beneficiary access to necessary care. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Krantz, ASHA's director of federal affairs for health care, at jkrantz@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Judy Rich, EdD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL
2022 ASHA President