



## **H.R.2474 - Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act**

### **Introduced in House (04/03/2023)**

The bill was introduced by Reps. Raul Ruiz (D-CA), Larry Bucshon (R-IN), Ami Bera (D-CA), and Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA). It is important to note that all four of these Representatives are physicians.

This is bipartisan legislation that could support transformation to the fee schedule by allowing annual inflation-based updates to a flawed payment system. This bill modifies certain adjustments to payment amounts under the Medicare physician fee schedule.

The payment amounts under the Medicare physician fee schedule are based on a service's relative value, a conversion factor, and a geographic adjustment factor. Current law provides for separate conversion factors for physicians that are qualifying participants in advanced alternative payment models (also known as qualifying APM participants) and for other physicians beginning in 2026, with an annual update of 0.75% and 0.25%, respectively.

The bill replaces the separate conversion factors for qualifying APM participants and other physicians with a single conversion factor and provides for an update that is equal to the annual percentage increase in the Medicare Economic Index, beginning in 2024. (The Medicare Economic Index is a specialized index that is generally used to determine allowed charges for physician services based on annual price changes.)

Use of this index in the fee schedule could pave the way for providers, to gain ground in a payment system that has reduced payment year over year through coding changes and the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' budget neutrality requirements.

This bill has been referred to both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and House Ways and Means Committee.

There is currently no companion bill in the Senate for this bill.

[Congress.gov link to H.R. 2474](#)