

June 17, 2019

The Honorable Marcia Fudge  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2344 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Fudge:

I am writing on behalf of The Center for Health Affairs, and the 36 hospitals we serve across nine counties in Northeast Ohio, to ask for your support of H.R. 2552, the “Protecting Local Access to Care for Everyone Act.”

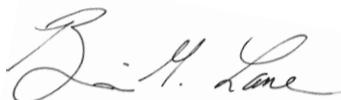
H.R. 2552 is meant to restore the intent of Congress as it pertains to services delivered at off-campus hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs).

Section 603 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 reduces Medicare reimbursement for certain off-campus hospital departments by eliminating eligibility for payment under the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS). In this legislation, Congress made a clear distinction between existing HOPDs already billing for services and new HOPDs that would ultimately seek reimbursement following the Act. In 2016 Congress reaffirmed its intent to grandfather certain HOPDs that were under construction at that time by passing Section 16001 of the 21st Century Cures Act. In Cures, Congress made it clear that any facility in the process of being built prior to the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 would not be subject to reimbursement rate cuts applied to newly built HOPDs.

However, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in the calendar year 2019 OPPS rules, has misconstrued congressional intent by cutting payments for hospital clinic services in these grandfathered, or excepted, off-campus departments. H.R. 2552 would restore the policy Congress intended and ensure that hospitals can continue to treat patients in the outpatient setting in their home communities. We ask that you lend your support to this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of Northeast Ohio hospitals and the communities they serve. Should you have any questions regarding this or other policy issues impacting healthcare, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Brian G. Lane  
President & CEO