August 13, 2025

The Honorable Greg Murphy United States House of Representatives 407 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Lloyd Doggett United States House of Representatives 2307 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Murphy and Doggett:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and nearly 200,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and medical students we represent, we thank you for introducing the *Prompt and Fair Pay Act*. This legislation would create a much-needed payment floor in the Medicare Advantage program while also implementing prompt payment rules that would simplify payments for in-network services.

As physicians fight year after year for predictable and sustainable payment while facing cuts, Medicare Advantage (MA) plans consistently receive payment increases every year. For example, the 2025-2026 update projects a 4.33% payment increase for MA plans. Despite this, physicians not only typically face cuts in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) but receive even lower payments from MA plans than traditional Medicare. As the percentage of seniors enrolling in Medicare Advantage plans increases, this will create an even sharper decline in overall payments to physicians at the same time that independent private practices are closing across the country due to increased practice costs.

We are incredibly grateful for your leadership on protecting patient access to care through stable and predictable physician payment. If passed, the *Prompt and Fair Pay Act* would ensure that Medicare Advantage plans can no longer undercut traditional Medicare payments. Setting a floor for physician payment provides transparency and ensures that physician practices can see more Medicare beneficiaries while still maintaining an economically sustainable practice. Furthermore, prompt payment rules would incentivize physicians to deliver in-network care as efficiently as possible while providing protection against undue delays and burdens.

Again, thank you for your dedicated leadership, and thoughtful consideration on this essential issue. The AOA and our members stand ready to assist you in securing the enactment of this important legislation. If you have any questions or if the AOA can be a resource, please contact AOA Vice President of Public Policy, John-Michael Villarama, at <a href="mailto:jvillarama@osteopathic.org">jvillarama@osteopathic.org</a>, or (202) 349-8748.

Sincerely,

Robert G.G. Piccinini, DO, D.FACN

President, AOA

Kathleen S. Creason, MBA

Interim Chief Executive Officer, AOA