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# Advocacy Monthly



## Surgeons Still Have Time to Help Mitigate Payment Cuts

As the legislative session winds down for the year, surgeons are facing two Medicare pay cuts that will go into effect January 1, 2023:

- A 4.0% reduction in payment benefits as the Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 expires at the end of 2022.
- An additional 4.5% cut is scheduled to start January 1 for the Physician Fee Schedule. H.R. 8800, introduced in September by US Rep. Ami Bera, MD (D-CA), would delay this reduction for another year. However, Joseph Cleveland Jr., MD, chair of the STS Council on Health Policy and Relationships, notes that the proposal might not be brought forth in time to prevent this cut and could be overshadowed by other issues. As part of the Surgical Care Coalition, STS continues to strongly advocate for the bill to help preserve Medicare reimbursement.

“The myriad pressures facing our country’s health care system grow with each year, yet instead of pursuing long term-reform to stabilize the system, the annual cuts to Medicare further exacerbate the issue,” Dr. Cleveland emphasized. He said that physician groups must push for a better long-term solution.

Meanwhile, there’s still time to contact your Representative and encourage them to cosponsor H.R. 8800. The “Take Action” center on the Surgical Care Coalition site makes it quick and easy.

[Act now.](#)



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