



# End Medicare Payment Cuts: Cosponsor H.R. 879, the Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act

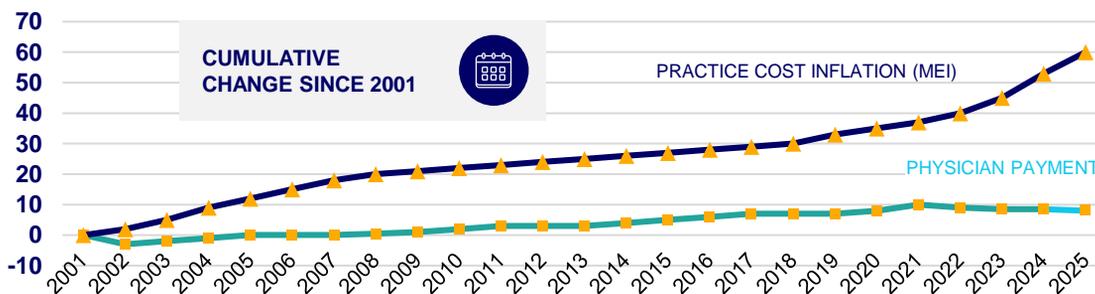
## BACKGROUND

**While the cost of practicing medicine has risen dramatically in recent years, Medicare physician payment has declined.** According to the Medicare Trustee's Report, physician payment dropped by 33% from 2001-2025 when adjusted for inflation.

For 2025, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) estimate that the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) which measures the average annual price change of physician practices, will increase by 3.5% while physician payment decreased by more than 2.8%. Rising costs associated with staff wages, equipment, infrastructure, and inflation, compounded by challenges associated with recovering from the pandemic, are hampering physicians' ability to deliver care to patients.

## PROBLEM

**Osteopathic physicians across the nation, including many in rural and underserved communities, are struggling to keep their practices open due to increasing expenses and insufficient, unstable payment rates.** Analysis of Medicare Trustees data found that inflation-adjusted Medicare payments to clinicians have decreased by 33% from 2001-2025, and a further 2.8% cut went into effect on January 1, 2025.



## SOLUTION

Congress must act to protect patients' access to care by cosponsoring **H.R. 879, the Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act**, to reverse harmful cuts to physician payment, and protect patients' access to care.