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The Part B Access for Seniors and Physicians (ASP) Coalition Applauds Introduction of the *Protecting Patient Access to Cancer and Complex Therapies Act of 2023* (S. 2764/H.R. 5391)

This week, Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), Congressman Michael Burgess (R-TX), and Congressman Greg Murphy (R-NC) introduced the *Protecting Patient Access to Cancer and Complex Therapies Act of 2023* (S. 2764/H.R. 5391), which, if enacted, will address the untenable Medicare Part B payment cuts to healthcare providers included in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and protect Medicare beneficiaries' access to lifesaving therapies.

Medicare beneficiaries receiving Part B covered drugs include some of the most vulnerable in the program. Physicians caring for these patients face an increasingly challenging reimbursement environment that will be made worse by the IRA, which is putting providers and their patients in the middle of drug price negotiations between the government and drug companies. Under the IRA, reimbursement for negotiated Part B drugs will no longer be based on "Average Sales Price" (ASP) but rather a new rate called the "Maximum Fair Price" (MFP). Prior to the passage of the IRA, the healthcare provider community warned that the cuts to add-on payments for Part B drugs would place extreme pressure on practice viability. Nevertheless, lawmakers moved forward with the provision, knowing they would further exacerbate the reimbursement cuts that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has been implementing for years now.

The *Protecting Patient Access to Cancer and Complex Therapies Act of 2023* would keep providers whole and remove them from the middle of the IRA's drug price negotiation process. The ASP Coalition urges Congress to pass S. 2764/H.R. 5391 to ensure patients continue to have access to the therapies they need.

For more information, please visit www.PartBAccess.org