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May 12, 2025

New Report Highlights Savings from Critical Medicare Part B Reimbursement Fix

WASHINGTON – The Part B Access for Seniors and Physicians (ASP) Coalition today released a new independent report they commissioned from Milliman demonstrating the significant cost savings of a proposed solution to the untenable Medicare Part B payment cuts imposed by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The <u>Protecting Patient Access to Cancer and Complex Therapies Act</u> would not only reverse these cuts and safeguard access to life-saving therapies for Medicare beneficiaries – it will also save the federal government \$3.3 billion dollars over 10 years from 2028-2037. You can read the full report here.

"Medicare Part B provides critical medications to nearly 70 million seniors and disabled Americans, including those with cancer and other grave medical conditions. When patients are confronting cancer and other life-changing diagnoses, they shouldn't have to worry about whether their physician can provide the necessary treatment," **said Ted Okon, Executive Director, Community Oncology Alliance.** "This technical fix solves a simple but serious problem confronting physicians and their patients, while also delivering meaningful savings to the government. It's a win-win."

The IRA granted the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) authority to negotiate certain Medicare drug prices. However, an unintended consequence of this policy is that physicians who administer in-office treatments – such as cancer treatments and therapies for complex chronic diseases— are left covering the gap between the new negotiated prices and the original average sales price. This shortfall is estimated to cost physicians \$56.3 billion over the next decade.

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 manufacturers.

The Protecting Patient Access to Cancer and Complex Therapies Act addresses this issue at no cost to the federal government. The legislation directs CMS to reimburse physicians at the average sales price while requiring manufacturers to repay the cost difference to the government. It enjoys support in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate and is backed by leading physician and patient advocacy groups.

The Part B ASP Coalition represents over 300 patient and provider organizations across the country. For more information, please visit www.PartBAccess.org