



# WAYS AND MEANS

REPUBLICANS | KEVIN BRADY, REPUBLICAN LEADER

## Strong Support for Our Local Doctors in Year-End Package

- **Bans Surprise Medical Bills and Creates a Fair Dispute Resolution Process.**
  - Protects patients from surprise medical bills while rejecting price setting schemes and attempts to limit providers' access to arbitration.
  - Explicitly bans the arbiter from considering government-set rates.
  - Accommodates physician stakeholder concerns about the timeline surrounding arbitration by giving providers more flexibility to when they can start the process.
  - Creates an interim report to Congress two years after enactment to ensure rigorous oversight of the development of the arbitration process.
  - Adds additional flexibility for the Secretary to establish the “90 day cooling off period” in a manner that ensures all claims are eligible for arbitration.
- **Increases physician pay across the board, stops planned Medicare cuts and mitigates at least two-thirds of the cuts to certain providers due to Medicare budget neutrality requirements.**
  - Blocks a new code created in the latest physician fee schedule rule for three years, which is projected to mitigate these cuts by a third.
  - Injects \$3B into the physician fee schedule in 2021, resulting in payment increases across the board.
  - Continues the current Alternative Payment Model (APM) thresholds for two additional years, allowing more providers to qualify for the 5 percent APM payment who would otherwise have been disqualified because of statutory increases in threshold amounts.
  - Delays the 2 percent sequester cuts that were supposed to resume January 1, 2021, for three additional months.
- **Supports Medicare physician workforce development by providing for the distribution of 1,000 additional Medicare-funded graduate medical education (GME) residency positions.**
- **Dedicated funding for physician training in rural and underserved areas.**
- **Allows patients entering hospice care to keep their same doctor from a federally qualified health center or rural health center.**
- **Expands permanently telehealth for mental health services.**
- **Delays implementation of the radiation oncology model another six months to give providers more time to adapt to the new payment system.**