



Physicians Caring for Texans

## **TMA STATEMENT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 24, 2023

### **TMA Applauds Medicare Relief**

*Statement by Texas Medical Association (TMA) President-Elect Rick Snyder, MD, in support of the United States House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee taking up Medicare relief this week.*

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“The Texas Medical Association applauds the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee for addressing two critical issues that have impacted patient care for decades.

“Medicare patients and people with disabilities need a physician in charge of their care but the method used to pay physicians doesn't work and hasn't for years. Every year, physicians face a payment decrease from Medicare while other health care providers realize payment increases.

“We [Texas physicians] are heartened by the subcommittee's effort to fix this broken system. It's essential that Congress take steps to pay physicians for the care they provide to vulnerable patients at the same rate as other health care providers, like hospital outpatient clinics when they are performing the exact same service. This important action would allow more physicians to treat Medicare patients today and into the future.

“TMA also is grateful for the subcommittee's action to lift the ban on physician-owned hospitals, which has crippled patient access to timely and affordable care.”

*TMA is the largest state medical society in the nation, representing more than 57,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 110 component county medical societies around the state. TMA's key objective since 1853 is to improve the health of all Texans.*

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