

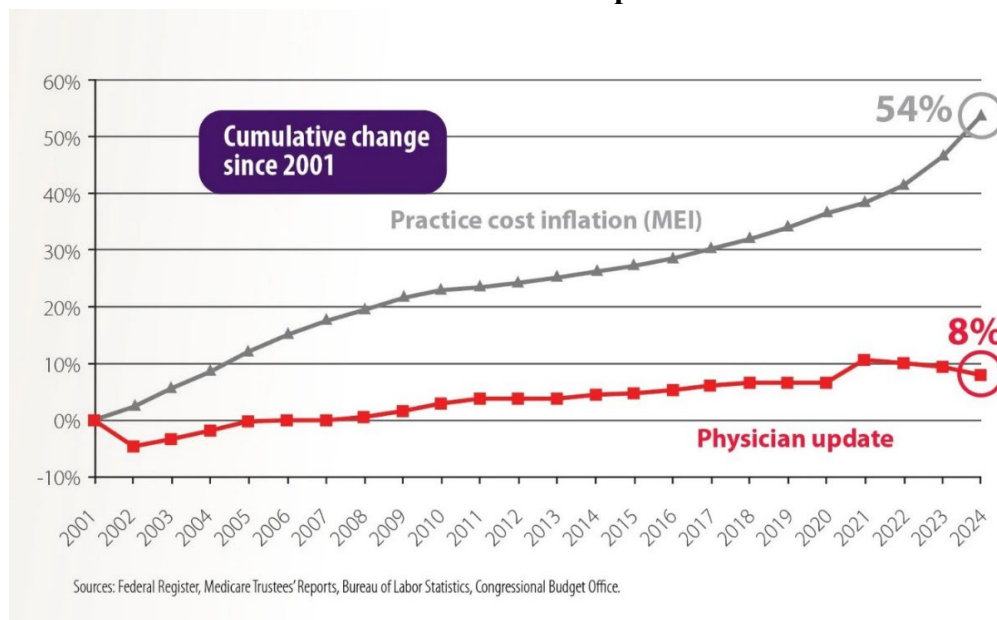
## PRIORITIZE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM

AAPM&R continues to be seriously concerned about the lack of stability in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS). Physicians are faced with annual scheduled cuts to the MPFS, making it increasingly difficult to maintain financially viable practices and threatening patient access to necessary medical care. Congressional action is urgently needed to permanently reform Medicare physician payment and protect reimbursement for vital healthcare services furnished by frontline providers.

In recent years, Congress has frequently acted to avert or mitigate statutorily required payment cuts, cuts that would have been damaging to physician practices and limited access to care for Medicare patients if fully implemented. AAPM&R is thankful that Congress recently acted to provide partial relief to the cut that went into effect on January 1, 2024; however, more long-term solutions are desperately needed.

[AAPM&R urges Congress to work with the physician community to establish reliable, sustainable, positive updates to the MPFS annually and to provide stability for physicians and their patients.](#)

### Medicare Reimbursement Compared to Inflation



Source: American Medical Association, 2024 National Advocacy Conference Action Kit

When adjusting for inflation, **physician payment under the MPFS has been cut 26% between 2001 and 2024.**



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## *ISSUE BRIEF*

A bipartisan coalition of physician Members of Congress has introduced legislation in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress that would provide an annual Medicare physician payment update tied to inflation, as measured by the Medicare Economic Index (MEI). H.R. 2474, the *Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act*, is being led by Representatives Raul Ruiz, M.D., Larry Bucshon, M.D., Ami Bera, M.D., and Marianne Miller-Meeks, M.D., and has been endorsed by AAPM&R and the physician community.

[AAPM&R urges all Members of the House to cosponsor H.R. 2474, the \*Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act\* and to work with your colleagues and Congressional leadership to include it in any legislative package moving before the end of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.](#)

[AAPM&R urges all Members of Congress to work with their colleagues and the physician community to deliver long-term stability to the Medicare system and establish a permanent annual inflationary Medicare physician payment update that keeps up with the cost of practicing medicine and ensures continued access to care for Medicare beneficiaries.](#)