

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Gregory F. Murphy  
United States House of Representatives  
407 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Joyce  
United States House of Representatives  
2102 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier  
United States House of Representatives  
1110 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Murphy, Joyce and Schrier:

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, the world's largest professional organization of endocrinologists, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Joint Doctors Caucus Draft MACRA Update Framework you recently released. Founded in 1916, the Endocrine Society represents approximately 18,000 physicians and scientists engaged in the treatment and research of endocrine disorders, such as diabetes, hypertension, infertility, obesity, osteoporosis, endocrine tumors cancers (e.g., thyroid, adrenal, pancreatic, ovarian, pituitary) and thyroid disease. Our membership includes over 11,000 clinicians who are on the front lines in treating diabetes and obesity, which are two of the most common chronic illnesses in the United States.

We appreciate your bipartisan leadership and work on legislation to address physician payment reform. This is an important issue for our members, and we look forward to working with you to address the challenges facing endocrinologists and other specialty physicians. Specifically, we would like to provide feedback on the primary care add-on payment you have proposed in the framework.

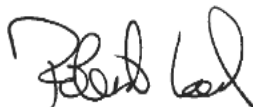
Endocrinologists are in need of payment reform to be paid adequately. The endocrinology pipeline continues to face unprecedented challenges and there is a national shortage of adult endocrinologists. This shortage has had a significant impact on rural and underserved populations.

Data shows that approximately 78% of counties in the United States do not have a practicing endocrinologist.<sup>1</sup> This statistic is extremely alarming considering that endocrinologists treat Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes and obesity, which are two of the costliest chronic conditions in the United States. There is also the issue of physician compensation. It has [been cited](#) that aspiring physicians in medical school are less likely to choose primary care because of low compensation, long work hours, and other administrative burdens. The field of endocrinology faces similar challenges with data showing that endocrinologists have the third lowest salary among physicians, below those of primary care groups such as internal medicine and family medicine.<sup>2</sup>

Given these ongoing challenges, we urge you to make endocrinologists and other non-procedural specialists eligible for the add-on payment by defining primary care in such a manner that would capture primary care physicians, endocrinologists, and other non-procedural specialties. We ask that the MACRA reform legislation define primary care using evaluation and management (E/M) CPT codes and any HCPCS codes that are like E/M services. These codes are used by primary care physicians, and associated subspecialties, including endocrinologists, to bill for different types of services. These services include routine office visits, chronic care visits, which include treatment of diabetes and obesity, follow-up visits, prevention and wellness visits, medication management, care coordination, and treatment planning. Since endocrinologists often serve as the *de facto* primary care physician for many Medicare beneficiaries, the Society believes that endocrinologists should be treated as primary care physicians for this proposed add-on payment. We also support other specialties who provide services captured by E/M codes being included in this add-on payment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on the physician payment reform framework. If you have any questions or we can be of any further assistance, please contact Rob Goldsmith, Director of Advocacy and Policy at [rgoldsmith@endocrine.org](mailto:rgoldsmith@endocrine.org).

Sincerely,



Robert Lash, MD  
Chief Medical Officer

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<sup>1</sup> Goodson JD, Shahbazi S, Song Z. Physician Payment Disparities and Access to Services-a Look Across Specialties. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2019 Nov;34(11):2649-2651. doi: 10.1007/s11606-019-05133-0. Epub 2019 Aug 5. PMID: 31385213; PMCID: PMC6848648.

<sup>2</sup> McKenna, Jon. Comparing Your Pay Against Your Peers': Medscape Physician Compensation Report 2025. Medscape. Published: 2025 July 8. Retrieved from: <https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/2025-compensation-overview-6018103#3>