

**Endocrine Society
Statement for the Record
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Examining the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, MACRA, and Opportunities for
Payment Reforms
May 20, 2026**

The Endocrine Society would like to thank Chairman Morgan Griffith (VA-09) and Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ) for conducting this important hearing on Medicare physician payment reform. Founded in 1916, the Endocrine Society represents approximately 18,000 physicians 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 and costliest chronic illnesses in the United States. According to recent data, approximately 1 in 8 Americans is living with diabetes while more than 2 in 5 adults is living with obesity.¹²

We urge the Committee to pass bipartisan legislation that provides stability to physician reimbursement which would help address the challenges currently faced by endocrinologists. The endocrinology pipeline continues to face unprecedented challenges and there is a national shortage of endocrinologists. This shortage has had a significant impact on rural and underserved populations. Data show that approximately 78% of counties in the United States do not have a practicing endocrinologist.³ 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. [Recent data show](#) that aspiring physicians in medical school are less likely to choose primary care because of low compensation. The field of endocrinology faces similar challenges with data showing that

¹ National Diabetes Statistic Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 21, 2026, Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/php/data-research/index.html>

² Overweight & Obesity Statistics, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Retrieved from: <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-statistics/overweight-obesity>

³ 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.

endocrinologists have the third lowest salary among physicians, below those of primary care groups such as internal medicine and family medicine.⁴

We hope that you will work together in a bipartisan manner to address these challenges. Endocrinologists and other physicians have endured over 30 years of stagnant Medicare reimbursement rates, which have not accounted for inflation or the evolution of office-based medical care. We urge the committee to pass legislation that provides an annual inflationary update to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) conversion factor (CF). As you may know, CMS has described the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) as the best measure available of the relative weights of the three components of MPFS payments – work, practice expense, and malpractice. We urge you to pass a bill that provides an annual inflation-based adjustment to the CF equal to MEI. We believe that providing this stability is the first step to addressing the reimbursement challenges facing practicing endocrinologists. Additionally, we urge the Committee to explore how Medicare can more appropriately value the work of endocrinologists and other cognitive physicians who provide complex chronic disease management for beneficiaries, particularly when that care is not procedural.

Thank you again for holding this important hearing to shed light on much needed reforms to Medicare physician payment. The Endocrine Society stands ready to work with you to pass legislation that addresses this critical issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information.

⁴ 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>