



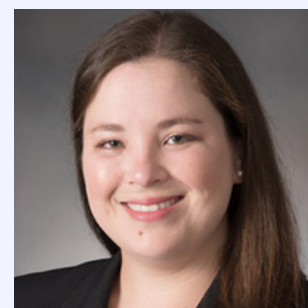
Message from the Governor

Dear Chapter Membership,

Happy 2025! I hope that all of you survived the recent snow, ice and bitterly cold temperatures.

I have lots of chapter news to share.

First, please join me in congratulating Dr. Meagan Schaeffner, our chapter's newest Governor-Elect Designee. Dr. Schaeffner is a physician at the University of Kentucky. She will take over as governor in April of 2026.



Second, our chapter has two new Wellbeing Champions. I look forward to working with Lesley Kellie and Phuong Ngo over the next year!

Lastly, we have created some new committees to help us make sure we are providing you with the programming and content that you need. Stay tuned for updates from our Student Member, Resident/Fellow Member and Early Career Physician Committees.

I hope to see many of you in New Orleans at ACP IM 2025.



Thanks,
Jenny Olges, MD, MPH, FACP
Governor, KY Chapter of the ACP
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Help Promote Action Alert Urging Congress to Prioritize Health Care Issues

As a new Congress convenes, ACP is asking ACP members to urge their members of Congress to prioritize health care and pass legislation that addresses Medicare physician payment cuts, extends telehealth flexibilities long-term, and reforms the prior authorization process.

The last Congress failed to pass legislation that would have addressed these issues in an end-of-year package. As a result, a 2.8 percent cut to physician Medicare payments went into effect on January 1, 2025, and a number of bipartisan health care policies were not finalized, including prior authorization reform and a long-term extension of telehealth coverage flexibilities. We need your help to get these critical issues resolved.

The 2.8 percent cut to Medicare physician payment that went into effect on January 1, is the result of complex budgetary rules and systemic flaws within the physician fee schedule (PFS). This is the fifth straight year that the final PFS rule includes an across-the-board cut to payment rates for physicians and other clinicians. Congress has passed legislation over the past four years to mitigate portions of these cuts, and needs to act again to stop the current cut.

Last year, ACP supported the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act, which would protect patients from unnecessary delays in care and reduce administrative burden on physicians by streamlining the prior authorization approval processes in Medicare Advantage. The legislation had bipartisan support with 231 cosponsors in the House and 59 cosponsors in the Senate. ACP supports a re-introduction of the Improving Senior's Timely Access to Care Act in the current Congress and its inclusion in any new package of health care legislation.

ACP has also supported a long-term extension of telehealth flexibilities that included the removal of geographic restrictions, expansion of originating sites required for telehealth visits, audio-only telehealth access and that allows for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to continue providing telehealth service. In the government-funding continuing resolution (CR) passed by Congress last month, these telehealth flexibilities were extended but only until March 2025 when the resolution expires. Congress will need to act again to extend these flexibilities.

Action Requested

Please send an email message to your members of Congress expressing the need to prioritize these important health care issues. A sample letter has been provided for you that can be personalized. Simply click on the "Take Action" link below, follow the prompts, and submit your letters electronically.

Act now!

Please contact Shuan Tomlinson at stomlinson@acponline.org with any questions about this campaign. Thank you for your continued advocacy.



Leadership Day 2025

The Westin Washington, DC Downtown Hotel (located at 999 9th Street, NW)

April 28-29, 2025

Leadership Day enables the College to increase its presence on Capitol Hill and bring our issues of concern to U.S. lawmakers. ACP members will receive two days of in-depth briefings on the College's legislative priorities and an opportunity to meet with elected officials.

ACP members interested in participating in Leadership Day 2025 should contact [Chapter Governor] to let me know of your interest and to be included in the chapter delegation congressional meetings. A \$99 registration fee to attend Leadership Day will be charged to attendees at the time of registration, with the exception of medical students and Residents/Fellows in-training members. Attendance will be limited to ACP members only.

For more information about the Leadership Day 2025, go to:
<https://www.acpservices.org/leadership-day/what-leadership-day>.

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