Advancing High Performance Health

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January 6, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of AMGA and our members, I urge Congress to act swiftly to address critical healthcare policies that will expire on January 30. Additionally, we ask Congress to extend the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Enhanced Premium Tax Credits (ePTC) which already expired at the end of 2025. Addressing these critical issues will ensure patient access to care, support healthcare providers, and maintain stability throughout the healthcare system.

Founded in 1950, AMGA is a trade association leading the transformation of healthcare in America. Representing integrated systems of care and multispecialty medical groups, we advocate, educate, innovate, and empower our members to deliver the next level of high-performance health. AMGA is the national voice promoting awareness of our members' recognized excellence in the delivery of coordinated, high-quality, high-value care. Over 177,000 physicians practice in our member organizations, delivering care to more than one in three Americans. Our members are also leaders in high-value care delivery, focusing on improving patient outcomes while driving down overall healthcare costs.

Specifically, we ask Congress to:

- Extend the Current Medicare Telehealth Waivers
- Extend the Hospital at Home Program
- Delay Cuts to the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Program
- Extend the Current Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) Floor
- Extend the Expired Enhanced Premium Tax Credits (ePTC)

Extend the Current Medicare Telehealth Waivers

This is the sixth year that the telehealth waivers passed by Congress during the COVID-19 pandemic have remained in place. The waivers, which eliminated Medicare's telehealth originating site and geographic limitations, created a dramatic shift in how care is delivered in this country. The law also extended recognition of audio-only payments in that same period. These policies should be extended permanently to ensure increased patient access to care. Due to the waivers, patients in rural and urban areas who lack transportation can receive care from their providers within their homes. As a result, patients have come to expect telehealth services as a standard method of care delivered by their providers.

During the recent government shutdown, telehealth expansion waivers expired. Although the waivers were retroactively addressed in the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026, which extended the current waivers until January 30, the disruption of providers' ability to offer telehealth services resulted in reduced access to care. Moreover, the seesawing of policies that expire, then are extended for a short period of time, disincentivizes investment in this critical delivery model. Congress must extend these telehealth policies permanently so providers can confidently invest in this technology and patients, particularly those who have mobility issues or reside in rural communities, can receive care.

Extend the Hospital at Home Program

We ask that Congress continue to support the Hospital at Home program, whose authority expired during the government shutdown but was retroactively addressed in the latest funding bill. This innovative model, launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, allows healthcare organizations to deliver inpatient-level care in patients' homes, increasing hospital room capacity and reducing costs. The current federal funding law maintains reauthorization for the Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative through January. 30. Without action, the flexibilities granted during the pandemic will lapse, and patients who could receive inpatient level care at home will instead have to stay in the hospital away from their houses and family. We urge Congress to extend this vital program permanently.

Delay Cuts to the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Program

The Medicaid DSH program provides vital support to hospitals that serve large numbers of low-income and uninsured patients. These funds help offset both Medicaid underpayments and uncompensated care costs, ensuring patients can continue to access essential services—such as trauma care, burn units, maternal care, and high-risk neonatal care—in their communities. Congress has consistently delayed the Medicaid DSH reductions to allow hospitals to continue serving their patients and communities. The current delay ends January 30.

These cuts will have a significant impact on coverage and access to care, and we urge Congress to delay these cuts.

Extend the Current Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) Floor

The GPCI floor helps prevent Medicare physician payment cuts in rural and low-cost geographic areas by establishing a floor for the work component of the physician fee schedule (PFS). The current federal funding law extends the 1.0 work GPCI floor used in the calculation of payments under the Medicare PFS through January 30. Congress must extend the current GCPI floor so that providers can continue to have payment stability in an increasingly unstable environment.

Extend the Enhanced Premium Tax Credit (ePTC)

The ePTC, authorized under the *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)*, is applied toward the cost of purchasing specific types of health plans offered by private health insurance companies participating in the ACA exchanges. As part of the *Inflation Reduction Act (IRA),* Congress passed a three-year extension of the ePTC, which expired at the end of 2025. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the expiration of the ePTC will lead to a 26% reduction in subsidized exchange coverage for those in the ACA exchanges and an increase of 1.7 million enrollees with unsubsidized coverage over the same period.[i] Congress must ensure that patients can access private insurance markets to maintain their access to affordable healthcare coverage. We ask that Congress reinstate this expired tax policy as soon as possible.

Thank you for considering our recommendations, and we look forward to working with you throughout the year. If we can provide you with more information, please contact me or AMGA’s Senior Director of Government Relations Jamie Miller at jmiller@amga.org.

Sincerely,

Jerry Penso

Jerry Penso, MD, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer
AMGA

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[i] CBO, "CBO Publishes New Projections Related to Health Insurance for 2024 to 2034," *CBO Blog*, June 18, 2024, https://www.cbo.gov/publication/60383. Hereinafter, CBO, "CBO Publishes New Projections."
[i] https://www.cbo.gov/publication/60383