July 2017

Dear Congressman/Senator [ ]:

As the [YOUR Position/title] of [NAME OF LAB], a clinical laboratory located in your [district/state], I am writing to ask for your immediate help in delaying a harmful federal regulation that is threatening our ability to operate our community-based business, maintain our local workforce, and continue to serve Medicare beneficiaries.

The Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (PAMA) requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish a new payment system for the Medicare Part B Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule (CLFS) with specific requirements. This new system, as implemented by CMS, contains an unreasonable mandatory reporting process and requirements we struggled to meet. We have serious concerns about the accuracy of the data labs submitted, a concern that has also been raised by the HHS Office of the Inspector General. I am gravely concerned that the regulation will ultimately dismantle the network of community-based clinical laboratory testing facilities serving your district, the state, and the country overall, eliminating access to diagnostic testing relied on by physicians for patient care.

I am also seriously concerned that through its process CMS did not receive all of the data needed to conduct a full market assessment when resetting payment rates for lab services. The CMS rules prohibited data from large segments of the reference laboratory market and, as a result, will not reflect full market rates for CMS’s use. If not fixed now, the revised rates will only be based on a small number of national laboratory providers – rates that in no way reflect the markets I serve. There are already instances of laboratories selling and laying off hundreds of employees due to the financial implications of this regulation. As a community-based business, this is deeply troubling. My lab employs a skilled workforce of professionals and staff that help us serve patients, physicians, hospitals, and the broader public health system to detect infectious and chronic diseases.

I need your immediate help. As a constituent, **I ask that you call Secretary Tom Price, MD, and request a delay of the PAMA lab regulation until his team can work with stakeholders to ensure it is fixed**. It is so important that you make this call today before CMS uses flawed and incomplete data that threatens to destroy access to testing and the jobs in my laboratory.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns. Please contact me at [email] or [phone] to discuss this further. I look forward to working with you to ensure the PAMA laboratory regulation does not unduly threaten my business or access to testing services for Medicare patients or the other patients and providers we serve.

Sincerely yours,

Name

Title

Laboratory