

Send a brief email to your Congressional representatives through their official contact forms

1. Before you email your legislators check to see if they have already cosponsored SALSA. You can find a list of Senate cosponsors [here](#) and House cosponsors [here](#). If your legislators have already cosponsored, make sure you thank them and ask them to call for SALSA's enactment before the end of the year.
2. Personalize the email template below by replacing **the yellow highlighted sections** with information about you and your laboratory. Please adjust the letter to make it personal, appropriate to your situation, and explain the impact of PAMA cuts to your laboratory.
3. For House representatives, please use the representative associated with your **home** address, not the laboratory's address. You can find your House representatives at this website: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> You can find your Senators at this website: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>
4. Emails will be forwarded to your Representatives and Senators through their main websites. Each Member of Congress maintains a federal government website that includes a form to accept emails. To find your representative's website:
 - a. Once you have found your House representative and Senators through the links above, click his or her name to be directed to the office's webpage;
 - b. On the main landing page, look for a "Contact" tab or button;
 - c. Some members' websites will ask what type of request you are making. If it asks you, select "Comment on Legislation;"
 - d. Fill out the form with **your personal information and home address** (NOT the laboratory's address);
 - e. Many forms will request a "topic:" select "Health;"
 - f. Copy and paste your personalized and customized email into the space provided;
 - g. Click "send."
5. Email NILA at nila@nila-usa.org to share that you reached out to your representatives and Senators. Please be sure to include the name of your members of Congress in the communication. If you receive a response, please forward it to nila@nila-usa.org.

Brief Sample Email that you can send on your own through your Representatives' website:

Dear **[Representative or Senator Last Name]**:

I am a constituent and **[your role]** at **[name of your laboratory]**.

Community and regional clinical laboratories are facing potentially drastic cuts to reimbursement on January 1st due to the flawed implementation of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) of 2014. The Saving Access to Laboratory Services Act, or SALSA (H.R. 8188/S. 4449), is bipartisan/bicameral legislation that would not only freeze the impending cuts set for January 2023 but would make long-term repairs to PAMA and create a sustainable reimbursement structure for clinical laboratories. **Without congressional action, devastating laboratory cuts will go into effect in January. Congress must**

pass SALSA before the end of the year to ensure laboratories can continue to serve their communities and be prepared to respond to emerging threats to public health.

[Personalize this email by sharing how PAMA cuts have impacted your laboratory and the implications of future cuts on your ability to serve the community.]

SALSA would address future cuts by requiring CMS to use a statistically valid, representative sample of the entire laboratory infrastructure, including independent, hospital, and physician office laboratories to determine Medicare's Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule (CLFS) rates for widely available tests. Importantly, this legislation creates long term protections for laboratories by lowering the caps on cuts from 15% to 5% annually. It also ensures sustainability for Medicare by phasing in a cap on rate increases to ensure costs never go up by more than 5% per year. Finally, it would also reduce the frequency of required data reporting periods from every 3 years to every 4 years, mitigating another burden on laboratories.

[Tailor the final request depending on whether your legislator has already cosponsored SALSA]

[Option A: Your legislator is not yet a cosponsor of SALSA:] As a constituent and employer in your state, I urge you to protect our nation's laboratory infrastructure from further devastating cuts and ensure it is prepared to address COVID-19 and any future public health crisis. Please cosponsor SALSA (S. 4449/H.R. 8188) and urge Congressional leadership to ensure it is enacted by Congress this year.

[Option B: Your legislator is a cosponsor of SALSA:] Thank you for supporting SALSA and signing on as a cosponsor. Please tell congressional leadership that SALSA must pass before the end of this year, and work with your colleagues to ensure it is included in an end-of-year legislative package.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter.

[your signature]