

## Contact your representatives by telephone.

If you prefer, you can contact your representative and Senators by telephone. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic some offices may be understaffed and less equipped to take telephone calls. Dial (202) 224-3121 to reach the Capitol Switchboard. An operator can connect you to your representative or Senator's office. If you contact your members of Congress by telephone, please use the talking points below.

### Telephone Talking Points:

- I am a constituent from [hometown] and I am [your role] at [name of your laboratory].
- I am also a member of National Independent Laboratory Association ([NILA](#)), which represents regional and community clinical laboratories that often serve communities and patient populations not adequately served by large independent laboratories—including rural areas, underserved inner city neighborhoods, mid- and small-sized cities and municipalities, congregate facilities, and critical access hospitals.
- Clinical laboratories are facing as much as a 15 percent cut to many of the most common clinical laboratory tests on January 1, 2022, and I need your help to stop these cuts before they go into effect.
- As you may know, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) tied Medicare reimbursement for laboratory tests to private payer rates. Flawed implementation of PAMA resulted in drastic, unanticipated payment cuts that threaten the ability of community and regional independent laboratories to provide essential laboratory services.
- [If your laboratory does COVID-19 testing]: Laboratories like mine have been an indispensable component of the COVID-19 response. But because of PAMA-related rate cuts, many laboratories did not have the resources in place to act quickly when COVID-19 emerged. This constrained access to COVID-19 testing during the early stages of the pandemic, leading to long wait times for results and ineffective contact tracing.
- [Share how PAMA impacted your laboratory, including the COVID-19 response, staffing, and other impacts]
- Without congressional action, further cuts to laboratory services will go into effect in January. **To protect our nation's laboratory infrastructure and to ensure it is prepared to address COVID-19 and any future public health crisis, I urge you to freeze the pending PAMA-related cuts through 2022.**
- Is there a member of the staff with whom NILA can follow up to share further detail? [Ask for the appropriate staff member's name and contact information]
- Thank you for your time and for making [Representative/Senator's name] aware of my concerns.