

March 26, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
US Senate  
SD-511  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
US Senate  
SH-322  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
US House of Representatives  
568 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
US House of Representatives  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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

The undersigned organizations – representing radiation oncology physicians, radiation therapy professionals, patients, hospitals and hospital systems, freestanding radiation centers, health care professionals, equipment manufacturers, and organizations across the country – appreciate Congress’ longstanding bipartisan and bicameral support for radiation oncology and urge passage of new bipartisan legislation to shift Medicare’s current payment system to a more patient-centered approach that ensures access to high quality radiation therapy services.

Despite concerted bipartisan congressional efforts, radiation oncology has experienced severe Medicare reimbursement cuts of 25% since 2013, contributing to a 51% increase in consolidation into larger practices. These cuts negatively impact patient care and force patients, including rural and underserved patients, to travel farther from home to receive needed radiation treatments in freestanding centers and hospitals. People diagnosed with cancer and the radiation oncology teams responsible for their care deserve better.

**We urge Congress to pass the bipartisan Radiation Oncology Case Rate (ROCR) Value Based Payment Program Act of 2025, introduced in the Senate (S. 1031) by Sens. Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Gary Peters (D-MI), and in the House of Representatives (H.R. 2120) by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), John Joyce, MD (R-PA), and Paul Tonko (D-NY). This legislation would increase access to patient care, enhance the quality of cancer treatments, encourage innovation, reduce disparities for rural and underserved patients, and lower patient costs by saving Medicare about \$200 million over 10 years.**

Radiation oncology is a high value, cost-effective cancer treatment. Despite its cost effectiveness, Medicare has cut radiation oncology payments more than nearly all other physician specialties, which threatens state-of-the-art cancer care close to home. The current Medicare fee-for-service payment system is broken beyond repair and is not aligned with clinical guidelines that recommend shorter courses of radiation treatment for some cancers.

Recent data show that more Medicare beneficiaries are seeking radiation therapy, with numbers expected to continue growing and uses for the treatment to increase as the country’s population ages. Simultaneously, radiation oncology practices continue to face rising costs as cutting-edge

technology and skilled treatment teams get more expensive. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recognized and attempted to address these unique challenges with a proposed radiation oncology model (RO Model). However, the RO Model failed to achieve value-based care goals due to excessive payment cuts and administrative burdens. We are grateful for Congress' efforts to fix Medicare's well-intentioned, but flawed effort to reform radiation oncology payments.

We have learned from the RO Model and are committed to moving forward with value-based payment. If passed, the ROCR Act would:

- Ensure access to technologically advanced cancer treatments close to where patients live.
- Align payment incentives with guidelines by supporting shorter treatments for certain cancers, allowing patients more time to work and spend time with loved ones.
- Remove transportation-related barriers to treatment for rural and underserved patients.
- Improve upon already excellent quality through enhanced practice accreditation incentives.
- Encourage innovation through quality standards consistent with modern technology and practice.
- Unify payments across different care settings.
- Update payments based on medical inflation on an annual basis.

Radiation therapy is primed to make incredible gains for people with cancer, but the current Medicare payment system is prohibiting the investments necessary to further reduce cancer mortality. We remain committed to payment reform that achieves better outcomes and lower costs for patients.

We appreciate the continued bipartisan Congressional efforts to support fair payment policy for radiation oncology. We urge Congress to usher in a new era of stable payments, higher quality care, lower costs, and reduced disparities by passing the ROCR Act this year.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Dave Adler, Vice President of Advocacy for the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), at [dave.adler@astro.org](mailto:dave.adler@astro.org) for more information.

Sincerely,

Accuray Incorporated  
AdvaMed  
Advocate Health  
American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD)  
American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)  
American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO)  
American College of Radiology  
American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)  
Appalachian Radiation Oncology  
Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO)  
Association of Northern California Oncologists (ANCO)  
BAMF Health

Baptist Health South Florida  
Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas  
Baylor College Of Medicine  
Birmingham Radiological Group  
Boston Scientific  
CancerCare  
Cancer Care of Hattiesburg, PLLC  
Cancer Care Northwest  
Cancer Support Community  
Carolina Regional Cancer Center  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
Compass Oncology  
Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada  
Connecticut Radiation Oncology  
Corewell Health  
Emory University  
Florida Society of Clinical Oncology  
Gamma West Cancer Services  
Generations Radiotherapy and Oncology PC  
GenesisCare  
Hackensack University Medical Center  
Indiana Oncology Society  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Department of Radiation Oncology  
Las Vegas Prostate Cancer Center  
Loyola Medicine  
LUNgevity Foundation  
Maryland Oncology Hematology  
Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncologists  
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC)  
Michigan Healthcare Professionals  
Minnesota Oncology  
Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology (MSCO)  
Mississippi Oncology Society  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
Nebraska Oncology Society  
New York Oncology Hematology  
North Cascade Cancer Center, LLC  
Northeast Radiation Oncology  
Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire)  
NorthMain Radiation Oncology  
Northwestern Medicine - Department of Radiation Oncology  
Novocure  
Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute  
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA)  
Penn Medicine Department of Radiation Oncology and Proton Therapy  
Penn State Health  
Prostate Cancer Institute of Arizona  
Providence

Radiation Oncology Associates (Augusta, Georgia)  
Radiation Oncology Associates (Daytona Beach, Florida)  
Radiation Oncology Associates of Northern Virginia  
Radiation Oncology Centers, PC  
Radiation Oncology Physicians Inc. (Salem, Ohio)  
RCCS Revenue Cycle Coding Strategies  
Renaissance Institute of Precision Oncology & Radiosurgery  
Rocky Mountain Cancer Center  
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center  
SERO  
Siemens Healthineers  
Society for Radiation Oncology Administrators (SROA)  
Sun Nuclear, a Mirion Medical Company  
Tennessee Oncology  
Texas Cancer Institute  
Texas Radiotherapy  
The Radiosurgery Society  
Thomas Jefferson University  
Trinity Health  
Trinity Mid-Atlantic  
University of Arkansas for Medical Science  
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics  
University of Kansas - Department of Radiation Oncology  
University of Kentucky Health Care  
University of Louisville  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of Rochester Medical Center  
US Oncology Network  
Washington University Department of Radiation Oncology  
Western Radiation Oncology  
Willis-Knighton Health System  
WVU Cancer Institute at Wheeling Hospital