



Published Date: 4/1/21

Legislation extending moratorium on payment cuts passes in Congress

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In December of last year, Congress passed legislation that temporarily suspended the 2-percent Medicare sequestration payment cut that had been in effect since 2013. These cuts were temporarily suspended from Jan. 1 through March 31 of this year as a means of giving healthcare providers financial relief during the course of the pandemic. Last week, **the FMA and its allies scored an important victory** when the U.S. Senate passed legislation that would extend the moratorium on these cuts through Dec. 31, 2021. The House of Representatives previously passed similar but not identical legislation. Therefore, the bill will now return

to the lower chamber, where final passage is expected to occur within the next few weeks. Given that passage of this legislation is now all but certain, CMS is expected to hold off on processing claims in April until a bill has been signed into law. Clearly, the effects of the pandemic will linger well past the first quarter of this year, and the need for this relief has not subsided. Consequently, the FMA and other physician advocates have urged that the cuts be further suspended. For more information about our advocacy on this issue, read FMA President Michael Patete, MD's recent [letter to U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio](#) and [U.S. Sen. Rick Scott](#).





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