



Welcome to the October edition of the AMA's Very Influential Physician (VIP) Insider. Read on for details about these topics:

- Exclusive VIP webinar: Advocacy in a Post-COVID World coming October 28
- Spots still available for AMPAC's Virtual Campaign School in December
- Congress must act to prevent devastating cuts to the Medicare physician payment system
- NRCC and DCCC announce their initial target lists for 2022 midterms

Join us for a VIP exclusive webinar: Advocacy in a Post-COVID World

What will the future of advocacy look like in a post-COVID-19 environment? Will recently adopted digital communications tactics remain as part of the new normal? Which tried and true government relations strategies will return?

To find out - join us on October 28 at 7pm ET for our exclusive webinar: ["Advocacy in a Post-COVID World"](#)

Conducted over Zoom, this online training will answer these questions and more. Hear from Capitol Hill staff who will describe the procedures and protocols involved in meeting with constituents. AMA lobbying staff will reveal how they interact with House and Senate offices and also provide an update on the latest health policy developments. Finally, we'll discuss how virtual meetings may actually lead to greater efficiencies and more meaningful engagements, and ways that VIP members should consider interacting with congressional offices moving forward.

This online training is the first in a series of upcoming webinars that aim to provide you the tools you need to become a more effective advocate for your practice and your patients.

[Register now](#) to get access to this exclusive training and stay tuned for information on upcoming training topics and times.

AMPAC Virtual Campaign School coming in December 2021!

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the AMPAC Campaign School will be conducted virtually again this year.

Hurry, only a few spots are left and [deadline to register is October 13](#) or sooner if maximum capacity is reached!

In order to provide all of the same high-quality programming the Campaign School is known for in a "virtual" format, this year's program will be conducted over two weekends – December 3-5 and 11-12.

Participants will be broken into online campaign “staff” teams, and apply what they learn in sessions on strategy, vote targeting, social media, paid advertising and public speaking. Insider tactics will be taught virtually by experts from both sides of the political spectrum. These professionals are the experts currently advising campaigns at every level around the country.

Be part of a campaign team from the comfort of your own home!

[Registration is now OPEN but hurry](#), the deadline to register is October 13.

For more information, please contact politicaleducation@ama-assn.org or visit ampaonline.org

Congress must act to prevent devastating cuts to the Medicare physician payment system

With Congress mired in fights over reconciliation, infrastructure and raising the debt ceiling there remains much work to be done to save physicians from looming cuts in the Medicare physician payment system.

Thankfully, Reps. Ami Bera, MD (D-CA) and Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN) are stepping up!

They recently circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter highlighting the financial uncertainty within the Medicare payment system and the dangers facing the physician community if Congress fails to enact legislation to address these problems.

They're asking their colleagues in the House of Representatives to add their names to this letter and you can ask your representative to sign-on NOW!

In what amounts to a “perfect storm” of payment cuts going into effect on January 1, 2022, physician practices face the following stack of Medicare financial hits:

- Expiration of the current reprieve from the repeatedly extended 2 percent sequester stemming from the Budget Control Act of 2011. Congress originally scheduled this policy to sunset in 2021 but it will now continue into 2030.
- Imposition of a 4 percent Statutory PAYGO sequester resulting from passage of the American Rescue Plan Act. Should lawmakers fail to act, it will mark the first time that Congress has failed to waive Statutory PAYGO.
- Expiration of the Congressionally enacted 3.75 percent temporary increase in the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS) conversion factor to avoid payment cuts associated with budget neutrality adjustments tied to PFS policy changes.
- A statutory freeze in annual Medicare PFS updates under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) that is scheduled to last until 2026, when updates resume at a rate of 0.25% a year indefinitely, a figure well below the rate of medical or consumer price index inflation.

This would result in a combined 9.75 percent payment cut on January 1! And all of this comes at a time when physician practices are still recovering from the emotional and financial impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency. It's time to give our nation's physicians the peace of mind they deserve as they continue to fight on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic without having to worry if their practices will survive these potentially catastrophic cuts.

A strong collection of bipartisan cosigners will help demonstrate to House and Senate leadership that this confluence of payment cuts needs to be addressed via legislation before the end of

2021. [Please contact your Representative today](#) and urge them to show their support by signing on to Reps. Bera and Bucshon's "Dear Colleague" letter.

Advocacy in action

Recently, NDMAPAC Chair Tom Strinden, MD met with Representative Kelly Armstrong (R-ND) when he visited his practice. During the meeting Dr. Strinden spoke with Rep. Armstrong about the looming medicare cuts and the impact it would have on his practice. Since the visit, Rep. Armstrong has signed the Bera/Bucshon Dear Colleague letter. Advocacy in action!



NRCC and DCCC announce their initial target lists for 2022 midterms

As you can see in these two slides from our friends at the National Journal the NRCC and DCCC recently announced their initial target lists for the upcoming 2022 midterm elections. While these lists will change as we get closer to November 2022, one key take away is that Republicans are feeling bullish about their chances next year targeting nearly three times as many seats as the Democrats. While there is plenty of time for these targets to change, it just shows you what kind of an uphill battle the Democrats are facing to retain control of the House in 2022.

The NRCC announced 57 Democrats who will be targeted ahead of the 2022 midterms

Redistricting risk: ■ Moderate or high ■ Slight ■ None or minimal

Democratic Incumbent	District	2020 margin of victory
Tom Malinowski	NJ-07	1.2
Conor Lamb	PA-17	2.2
Haley Stevens	MI-11	2.4
Carolyn Bourdeaux	GA-07	2.8
Tom O'Halleran	AZ-01	3.2
Elissa Slotkin	MI-08	3.6
Matt Cartwright	PA-08	3.6
Chris Pappas	NH-01	5.1
Charlie Crist	FL-13	6
Tim Ryan	OH-13	7.6
Lucy McBath	GA-06	9.2
Stephanie Murphy	FL-07	12.1
Dan Kildee	MI-05	12.7
Rileyton Vela	TX-34	13.6
Cindy Axne	IA-03	1.4
Abigail Spanberger	VA-07	1.8
Angie Craig	MI-02	2.2
Ron Kind	WI-03	2.6
Vicente Gonzalez	TX-15	2.9
Lizzie Fletcher	TX-07	3.3
Kim Schrier	WA-08	3.6
Susan Wild	PA-07	3.8
Peter DeFazio	OR-04	5.3
Elaine Luria	VA-02	5.7
Mikie Sherrill	NJ-11	6.6
Kurt Schrader	OR-05	6.8
Katie Porter	CA-45	7
Josh Gotthelmer	NJ-05	7.6

Democratic Incumbent	District	2020 margin of victory
Andy Kim	NJ-03	7.7
Sharice Davids	KS-03	10
Ann Kirkpatrick	AZ-02	10.2
Josh Harder	CA-10	10.4
Chrissy Houlahan	PA-06	12.2
Jim Costa	CA-16	18.8
Deborah Ross	NC-02	28.2
Lauren Underwood	IL-14	1.4
Susie Lee	NV-03	3
Cheri Bustos	IL-17	4
Steven Horsford	NV-04	4.9
Colin Allred	TX-32	6
Jared Golden	ME-02	6.1
Mike Levin	CA-49	6.2
Sean Casten	IL-06	7.4
John Garamendi	CA-03	9.4
Dean Phillips	MN-03	11.2
Jahana Hayes	CT-05	11.6
Antonio Delgado	NY-19	11.6
Tom Suozzi	NY-03	12.5
Sean Patrick Maloney	NY-18	12.6
Marie Newman	IL-03	12.8
Kathleen Rice	NY-04	13.1
Ami Bera	CA-07	13.2
Henry Cuellar	TX-28	19.3
Joe Morelle	NY-25	20.2
Raul Ruiz	CA-36	20.6
Paul Tonko	NY-20	22.3
Brian Higgins	NY-26	41.1

SOURCE: NRCC, Roll Call, New York Times, The Cook Political Report with Amy Walter
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The DCCC announced 22 initial “Districts in Play” for the 2022 midterms

Redistricting risk: ■ Moderate or high ■ Slight ■ None or minimal

Republican Incumbent (unless otherwise specified)	District	2020 margin of victory
Claudia Tenney	NY-22	0.04
Mike Garcia	CA-25	0.1
David Schweikert	AZ-06	4.4
John Katko	NY-24	10.1
Marianne Miller-Meeke	IA-02	0
David Valadao	CA-21	0.9
Young Kim	CA-39	1.2
Michelle Steel	CA-48	2.2
Ashley Hinson	IA-01	2.6
Andrew Garbarino	NY-02	6.9
Steve Chabot	OH-01	7.2
Ann Kirkpatrick (D), retiring	AZ-02	10.2
Burgess Owens	UT-04	1
Beth Van Duyne	TX-24	1.3
Maria Elvira Salazar	FL-27	2.8
Carlos Gimenez	FL-26	3.4
Tony Gonzales	TX-23	4
Victoria Spartz	IN-05	4.1
Don Bacon	NE-02	4.6
Ann Wagner	MO-02	6.4
Scott Perry	PA-10	6.6
Brian Fitzpatrick	PA-01	13.2

SOURCE: DCCC, New York Times, The Cook Political Report with Amy Walter.
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