**SAMPLE ASIPP MEMBER LETTER TO SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CUSTOMIZED TO SENATOR/CONGRESSMAN

Re: Current Medicare Payment System’s Impending Cuts of 10.4% Compounded by an Escalating 9% Inflation Equaling a 20% Cut

Dear Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

As a practicing interventional pain physician and a member of both the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP) and my state society of interventional pain physicians, I am deeply disturbed by the accumulation of financial burdens to interventional pain physicians caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and decreasing Medicare payments, over the past several years.

Most alarming are the potential 10.4% cuts in physician fees (compounded by inflation is nearly a 20% cut), and 6% cut in facility fees schedule (compounded by inflation is nearly 15%), to begin on January 1, 2023, increasing fraud and abuse investigations with refund requests, and increasing work related to documentation for the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) [(See ASIPP Fact Sheet).](https://asipp.org/wp-content/uploads/062222-FactSheet-PerfectStormBrewing.pdf)

I am joining ASIPP and my state society to request your assistance in reversing these trends by:

1. Adding a 3.75% increase and making it permanent instead of the 3% from last year in the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS) conversion factor to avoid payment cuts associated with budget neutrality adjustment tied to PFS policy changes.
	* Historically, the conversion factor when started in 1992 was $32, with inflation it must be $59; however, with a 4.4% cut from 34.6062 to 33.0775 if the proposed rule is adopted. Please see the graphic presentation in the enclosed Fact Sheet.

2. Eliminating the 2% sequester completely without budget gimmicks and extending potentially through 2050. This policy was scheduled to sunset in 2021.

3. Waiving the 4% statutory PAYGO sequester permanently. This sequester was a result of the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act.

4. Reform fraud and abuse investigations policies. At present, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and multiple private contractors have their own policies of investigation with any regard for established local coverage determinations (LCDs) and medical policies.

• These audits and investigations from Noridian Healthcare Solutions, as appointed by CMS for the whole country and private contractors, are also defying LCDs and precertification rules and regulations and demanding refunds on every patient even when a precertification has been obtained.

The future of interventional pain and interventional pain physicians is at stake here. Some interventional pain physicians have already been forced to close their practices due to financial devastation. We need your understanding and assistance.

Thank you in advance for your generous assistance in supporting the future of interventional pain practice in the future.

Sincerely,