June 11, 2019

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Finkenauer:

The American Academy of Dermatology Association (Academy), which represents more than 13,800 members nationwide, is pleased to offer its support for the “Keep Physicians Serving Patients Act,” which is intended to ensure physicians receive appropriate payment for health care services they provide. Dermatologists diagnose and treat more than 3,000 diseases, including skin cancer, psoriasis, immunologic diseases and many genetic disorders. One in four Americans suffers from a skin disease.

The Academy appreciates your recognition that factors such as inaccurate and out-of-date data cannot only negatively impact reimbursements to physicians but can also contribute to physician shortages in non-urban areas as well. With baby-boomers leaving the workforce and with Medicare supported residency slots remaining stagnant for more than two decades, there is already growing concern that physician shortages in both primary and specialty care will only worsen, threatening patients’ access to quality care, particularly in rural communities. Reforming the geographic practice cost index (GPCI) calculation based on actual physician labor costs and practice expenses would be a step toward helping to attract and retain physicians in these underserved areas.

We appreciate your leadership in championing this important patient access issue. Please feel free to contact Christine O’Connor, the Academy’s Associate Director, Congressional Policy at coconnor@aad.org or (202) 609-6330 if you have any questions or if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

George J. Hruza, MD MBA FAAD
President, American Academy of Dermatology Association