

GROWING SUPPORT FOR THE SAVING ACCESS TO LABORATORY SERVICES ACT (SALSA)

Legislation Would Set a Sustainable Path for Patient Access to Laboratory Services and Help Keep Our Clinical Laboratory Infrastructure Healthy

BACKGROUND

Medicare reimbursement for clinical laboratory services has been on an unsustainable path of multi-year, double-digit payment cuts since implementation of the *Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014* (PAMA). Reductions to hundreds of tests, far surpassing the congressional scorekeeper's original projections, could threaten patient access to essential laboratory services and curtail innovation while undermining our nation's clinical laboratory infrastructure.

Necessary payment reform would be achieved through passage of the bipartisan *Saving Access to Laboratory Services Act* (SALSA / S. 4449 / H.R. 8188), a fiscally responsible, long-term solution to addressing harmful reimbursement cuts. Through passage of SALSA, Congress can protect the delivery of routine care for patients, encourage innovation in next generation clinical laboratory tests, and strengthen the national clinical laboratory infrastructure to ensure we are prepared to manage future public health needs.

SUPPORT

SALSA has bipartisan, bicameral support from a growing list of cosponsors who are committed to addressing upcoming harmful payment cuts for laboratory services:

"Clinical labs are an essential part of our health care infrastructure, providing critical services – from COVID-19 diagnostics to innovative genomic testing. Right now, current law threatens Medicare beneficiaries' access to these vital lab services, which is why I'm proud to partner with my colleague Senator Burr to ensure seniors continue to have access to high-quality diagnostic services, by protecting access to clinical labs."

– Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

"Diagnostic testing plays a critical role in maintaining seniors' everyday health and longevity. But for years, flawed data collection under Medicare has created an inaccurate payment system, threatening seniors' access to these important services. That's why I'm proud to work with Senator Brown on this important legislation to fulfill Medicare's mandate to provide a market-based payment system, ensuring sustainable access to these high-quality services for seniors."

– Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)

"If we've learned one thing over the course of the pandemic, it's the value of early diagnosis to successfully treat diseases. Seniors rely on access to laboratory services for essential screening, detection, and treatment for common medical conditions. SALSA is a bipartisan, commonsense solution that will ensure seniors can get the tests and treatments they need. After nearly a decade of threats to the diagnostics they rely on, seniors deserve the certainty this bill would provide."

– Representative Scott Peters (D-CA-52)

"Seniors deserve access to high quality medical care, which includes diagnostic laboratory services and other tests with the potential to save lives through early detection and individualized assessment of patient needs. Our bipartisan SALSA legislation will help ensure that continued access and I urge my colleagues to expedite its passage."

– Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12)

Additionally, SALSA has broad support among groups that represent providers, hospitals, and patients. More than 37 leading patient groups and 26 provider groups have sent letters to Congress urging them to enact SALSA this year:

"Without urgent congressional action, ongoing Medicare reimbursement cuts could jeopardize access to many clinical laboratory tests used to diagnose, monitor, prevent, and manage diseases for more than 50 million Americans. It is essential that Congress act this year to permanently fix this problem."

– Sally Greenberg, National Consumers League Executive Director

"Unless Congress acts, reimbursement for laboratory tests will be cut up to 14% in 2023, compromising care for patients with cancer, diabetes, kidney disease, and other conditions. Tell Congress to #StopLabCuts."

– American Association for Clinical Chemistry

"Passing the Saving Access to Laboratory Services Act (SALSA) would help protect access to the most common laboratory tests that America's Medicare beneficiaries depend on. Congress: Please pass SALSA and #StopLabCuts."

– National Association for the Support of Long Term Care

"New #PAMA cuts could undermine laboratory infrastructure essential for day-to-day care and responding to public health emergencies while also stifling investments for innovative new screening and diagnostic tests. Tell Congress to #StopLabCuts."

– Infectious Diseases Society of America

The American Clinical Laboratory Association (ACLA) is the national trade association representing leading laboratories that deliver essential health information to patients and providers. ACLA members are at the forefront of driving diagnostic innovation to meet the country's evolving health care needs and provide vital clinical laboratory tests that identify and prevent infectious, acute, and chronic diseases.

STOP LAB CUTS

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