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CMMI, tasked with finding ways to reduce Medicare spending and better coordinate care, has launched several mandatory initiatives that require provider participation in designated areas. The letter specifically cites the Part B Drug Payment Model, calling it a “clear example of CMMI’s overstep of authority, given the mandatory participation required of thousands of providers and millions of patients with serious conditions and rare diseases on a near-national scale.”

The US Oncology Network and its coalition partners have [advocated against](#) CMS’ Medicare Part B Drug Payment Model, which they warn compromises patient quality of care and increases healthcare spending over the long term.

The letter also warns that changes in CMS’ Medicare Part B Drug Payment proposal would essentially redraft the laws for Medicare Part B payment in three-fourths of the country without Congressional input or approval. “Accordingly, we insist CMMI stop experimenting with Americans’ health, and cease all current and future planned mandatory initiatives within the CMMI,” the lawmakers added

To view the letter to CMS, [CLICK HERE](#).

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On October 4, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released an estimate suggesting repeal of H.R. 5122, legislation to prohibit further action on the proposed rule regarding testing of Medicare Part B prescription drug models. According to the CBO, the bill would cost the federal government \$395 million between 2017 and 2026.

The legislation would prevent the Secretary of HHS from implementing the Medicare Part B Drug Payment model. CBO estimates that halting the demonstration would result in \$1.1 billion in lost savings from 2017 through 2026, however the cost could be offset by savings resulting from other demonstrations in place of the Medicare Part B Drug Payment.

To view the CBO cost estimate, [CLICK HERE](#).

Lawmakers to Prioritize 21st Century Cures Legislation in Lame Duck Session



Bipartisan lawmakers in both the House and Senate have said the 21st Century Cures legislation will be a top priority for year-end legislative business following the election in November.

“My own personal priorities are funding the government and the 21st Century Cures bill, which I think could end up being the most significant piece of legislation we pass in the whole Congress,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said last week. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) echoed his commitment to the Cures bill.

On September 28, the leaders of the Senate health committee, Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA), released a [statement](#) stressing their commitment to getting a result on legislation to drive medical innovation, support precision medicine and Cancer Moonshot.

House Energy and Commerce lawmakers also released a [statement](#) on September 28, reaffirming their goal of advancing the Cures bill this year. “We have been working hard for months, and we will continue to work toward an agreement that can pass both chambers and be signed by the president,” said Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI), Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and health subcommittee Chairman Joseph Pitts (R-PA) and Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX).

For more on the Cures legislation, [CLICK HERE](#).