



Congress Reintroduces Bipartisan and Bicameral Solution to Protect Seniors' Access to Essential Laboratory Services

Last year, the Point of Care Testing Association (POCTA) was proud to join the Stop Lab Cuts campaign in supporting the *Saving Access to Laboratory Services Act (SALSA)*, a commonsense solution to protect patient access to laboratory services and ensure a robust health care infrastructure.

While SALSA did not cross the finish line in 2022, the Stop Lab Cuts campaign did secure an important and necessary one-year reprieve from both Medicare payment cuts of up to 15 percent for more than 800 laboratory services and data reporting requirements that would have burdened labs unnecessarily.

Congress has now intervened four times – on a bipartisan basis – to “press the brakes” on harm caused by the *Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA)*. Now is the time to put laboratory payment policy on the right trajectory for the long-term, with congressional action before the next round of cuts go into effect in January 2024.

Currently, seven bipartisan lawmakers have come together to sponsor the bill, including Representatives Richard Hudson (R-NC), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Scott Peters (D-CA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), as well as Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Thom Tillis (R-NC).

The solution to setting Medicare reimbursement back on a sustainable path is straightforward: the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) must collect accurate and representative data from all laboratory market segments that serve Medicare beneficiaries, as Congress originally intended.

Help us urge Congress to support and enact SALSA by visiting StopLabCuts.org.