

Below is a quick snapshot of federal legislation your ACC Advocacy team has been working to advance. These legislative priorities are just a few of many at the federal level in addition to our interface with federal agencies, state capitals, private insurance groups and health systems.

Spotlight Issue: Protecting Providers from Workplace Violence

On June 7, Reps. Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN) and Madeleine Dean (D-PA) introduced the *Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act*.

This legislation would create federal penalties for using violence or intimidation against a health care worker, similar to federal penalties already in place for airline workers. According to a Bureau of Labor Statistics report, the health care and social services industries experienced the highest rates of injury caused by workplace violence and were five times more likely to suffer a workplace injury.



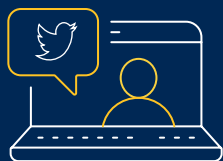
House Version - H.R. 7961

Introduced on June 7, 2022 by Reps. Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN) and Madeleine Dean (D-PA)

27 cosponsors (as of 8/23/22)

ACC Insight:

This legislation has strong support across the medical community. Many of ACC's identified champions of cardiovascular care have already cosponsored this important legislation. The safety and well-being of our members and patients is paramount and at the core of our current efforts to enhance professionalism and well-being guidance tied to guaranteeing the security and welfare of all clinicians and their patients.



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Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act

The bill expands the ability of the cardiac care team to supervise and order CV rehab programs under Medicare.



House Version - H.R. 1956

Introduced on March 13, 2021 by Reps. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Adrian Smith (R-NE), Derek Kilmer (D-WA), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Peter Welch (D-VT)

62 cosponsors (as of 8/23/22)

ACC Insight:

The ACC is working closely with our partners at the American Heart Association to advance this legislation. ACC's CV Team section met with Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH) in late June to discuss the role the CV Team plays in delivering high-quality, high-value care and how this legislation would positively impact patients' access to care. In July, Rep. Kuster signed on as a cosponsor.



Senate Version - S. 1986

Introduced on June 9, 2021 by Sens. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

8 cosponsors (as of 8/23/22)

Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act

The bill streamlines the prior authorization process within Medicare Advantage, reduces unnecessary administrative burdens, and improves patient access to medical services.



House Version - H.R. 3173

Introduced on May 13, 2021 by Reps. Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Ami Bera (D-CA), and Larry Buschon (R-IN)

311 cosponsors (as of 8/23/22)

ACC Insight:

This bill unanimously passed out of the House Ways and Means Committee on July 27. With over 310 cosponsors, this bill could easily pass in the House. The number of bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate also continues to grow, a good sign for this important foundational piece of prior authorization legislation.



Senate Version - S. 3018

Introduced on Oct. 20, 2021 by Sens. Roger Marshall (R-KS), John Thune (R-SD) and Krysten Sinema (D-AZ)

39 cosponsors (as of 8/23/22)

Cardiovascular Advances in Research and Opportunities Legacy (CAROL) Act

The bill provides a grant program through NHLBI supporting research on valvular heart disease.



House Version - H.R. 1193

Introduced on Feb. 22, 2021 by Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY)

Passed in the House on Dec. 8, 2021 with 183 members co-sponsoring the bill

ACC Insight:

This bill passed out of the Senate House, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee on June 15. We are hopeful that a full vote in the Senate is imminent. The ACC successfully had report language included in the House and Senate Appropriations LHHS bill drafts encouraging more valvular heart disease research at the NIH.



Senate Version - S. 1133

Introduced on April 15, 2021 by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)

South Asian Heart Health Awareness & Research Act

The bill provides funding for awareness and education initiatives for populations disproportionately affected by cardiovascular disease.



House Version - H.R. 3771

Introduced on May 18, 2022 by Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Joe Wilson (R-SC)

Passed in the House on July 27 and referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

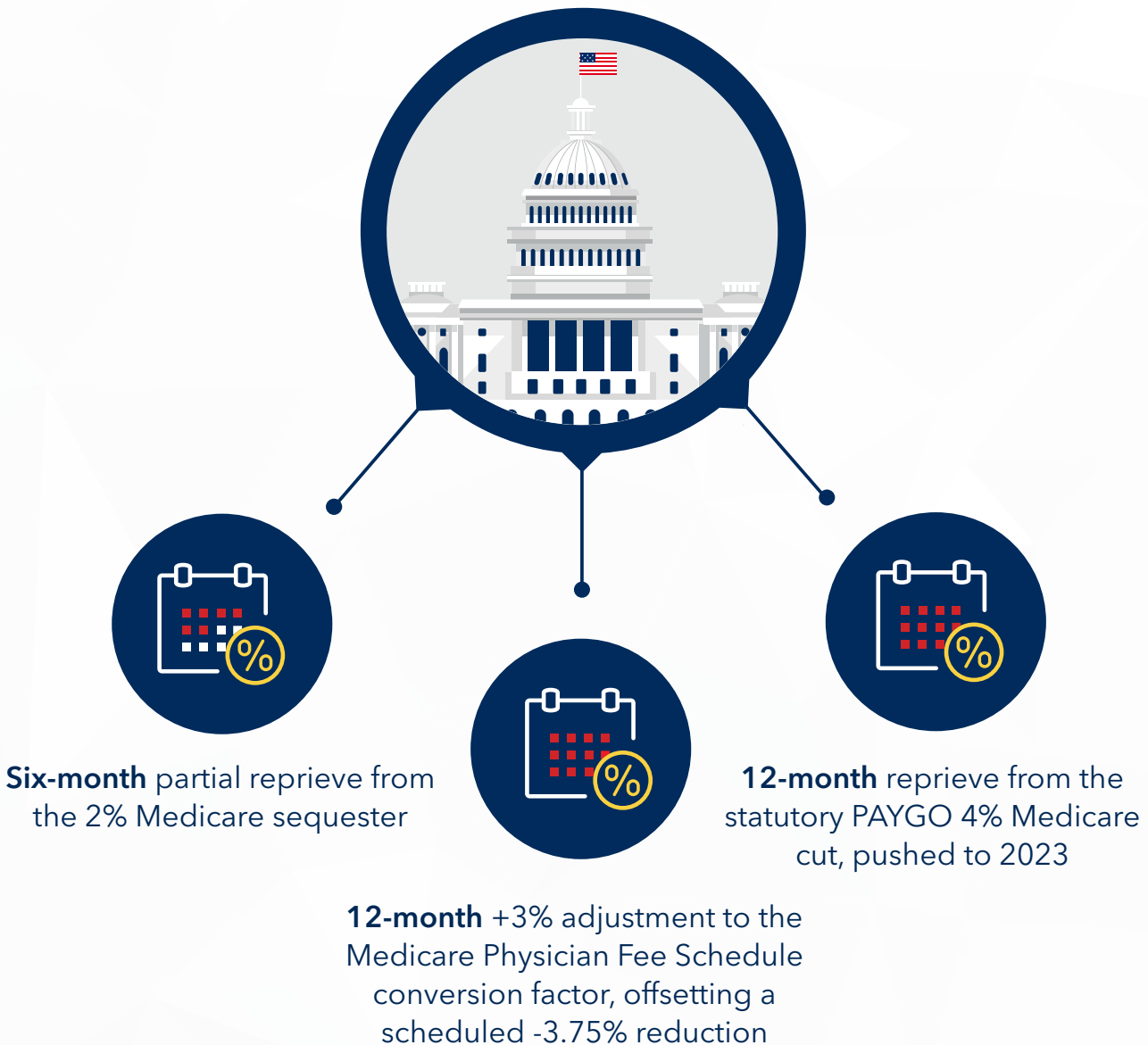
ACC Insight:

We are hopeful that this bill will progress and ultimately pass in the Senate, providing necessary funds to address health inequities. South Asian communities have a risk of heart disease four times greater than the general population. These research funds will go a long way to improve care and outcomes, while reducing health care costs of treating heart disease in at-risk populations.



Medicare Cuts

This continues to be a high priority issue for the ACC. In December, Congress passed a short-term fix to the proposed Medicare cuts to physician reimbursement. This fix included:



It is essential that Congress enact long-term payment reforms to bring stability to the Medicare program. As Congress begins the complex process of identifying and considering potential reforms, it must also address the immediate payment cuts facing health care professionals.