

**Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement**  
**Subcommittee on Health**  
***Examining the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, MACRA, and Opportunities***  
***for Payment Reforms***  
**Wednesday, May 20, 2026 – 2:00 PM**

*As prepared for delivery.*

Thank you, Chairman Griffith. And thank you to all of the witnesses for being here today.

Today’s hearing will build on the Committee’s third affordability hearing examining the provider landscape by focusing in on the challenges within the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. At that hearing, we heard consistently that the challenges providers face in the Medicare payment system are driving more physicians to leave independent practice and join larger systems. This increase in consolidation ultimately drives up costs for patients.

To fix these issues, we will hear today about some of the fundamental issues with the Physician Fee Schedule and look at the Medicare physician payment reforms established in MACRA—a law that was enacted more than ten years ago.

MACRA passed by a wide bipartisan majority in both chambers of Congress with the goal of moving past annual “doc fixes” and shifting Medicare toward value-based care. Despite this important work, we’ve continued to see payment instability in the program, which Congress has addressed through temporary increases to physician fee schedule payments.

MACRA also introduced the Quality Payment Program, which encouraged clinicians to participate in MIPS or join APMs with the goal of improving quality while reducing costs. However, too often we have heard that the administrative complexity of these programs creates challenges for participating clinicians—

especially those in independent practices—and may not accurately reflect the care they provide.

This hearing will examine state of these programs to better understand the barriers that exist for providers to move into innovative models of care.

Many of the issues today's hearing will highlight have been long-standing challenges in Medicare payment policy. However, this Committee has previously worked across the aisle to advance thoughtful, bipartisan policies on these issues.

I'm hopeful that today's discussion can help identify meaningful solutions centered on improving payment stability and reducing red tape so our Medicare clinicians can focus more on what's most important—improving seniors' care.

I thank the witnesses for their participation and look forward to today's discussion.

I yield back.