

Bill Introduced to Equalize Cancer Care Payment in Hospital and Physician Office

Representatives Mike Rogers (R-MI) and Doris Matsui (D-CA) introduced the Medicare Patient Access to Cancer Treatment Act (H.R. 2869), a bill that would establish Medicare payment parity for ambulatory cancer care services provided in the hospital outpatient department and the physician office setting. Representatives Rogers and Matsui were motivated to propose the bill due to:

“[A] significant shift of outpatient cancer care delivery from community oncology clinics to hospital outpatient departments as a result of flawed Medicare payment policies that reimburse hospitals at higher rates than community clinics offering the exact same services.”

Congressman Rogers notes that, in the past year, 288 community clinics closed, 407 practices were financially struggling, and 469 practices had entered into a contractual relationship with or had been acquired by a hospital.

The bill has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means committees.