Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, [XYZ Organization] has worked tirelessly to provide care for our community and the [X number of COVID-19 patients] out of a [total number of patients]. Our team of [number] physicians and [number] employees impress me daily with their dedication, ingenuity, and sheer stamina. We’ve battled an unrelenting foe—physically, emotionally, and even financially. But now we’re facing an additional and heedless challenge, not from the virus but from Congress. Looming cuts in Medicare will cause our [healthcare system/medical group], as well as others across the nation, further stress at this critical time and may disrupt our ability to continue to deliver care to the communities we serve. Congress needs to act to prevent these cuts from taking effect.

Providers are facings upwards of 10% cuts in Medicare starting in January 2022. For [organization], this would have a significant impact. The pandemic already has inflicted a toll on our organization and patients. [Insert example: staffing cuts? Delayed/canceled electives?]. These potential cuts would exacerbate the financial pressure facing us and all providers. What needs to happen to prevent this hardship? Congress should delay the pending 2% Medicare sequester and eliminate the 4% Medicare Pay-As-You-Go cut. Congress also should cancel a scheduled 3.75% decrease in the Medicare conversion factor.

We are not alone in our concern about these potential cuts. A recent survey of [medical groups/ health systems] like ours, conducted by AMGA, the trade association representing multispecialty medical groups and integrated systems, found that the potential impact of the cuts include hiring freezes and reduction in staff, elimination of services, and not accepting new Medicare beneficiaries.

To add further financial stress, Congress may consider cuts to the Medicare Advantage (MA) program, an increasingly popular choice of Medicare recipients. At [organization name], MA accounts for [percent of our Medicare patients]. These possible cuts to MA are in addition to the possible 10% cuts to traditional Medicare. This creates an untenable situation not only for [organization name], but for the entire healthcare delivery system. These cuts threaten our ability to do our absolute best for our patients and community. Should Congress implement these cuts, we would need to seriously consider a number of changes, some of them similar to what our peers voice in the AMGA survey. Clearly, these cuts could not come at a worse possible time, especially as we see the impact of coronavirus variants, such as the Delta variant we are now battling.

To support our continued ability to fight against COVID-19 and provide care to our patients and community, [organization name] has a simple request of Congress. Stop these cuts before they go into effect. The pandemic is ongoing, and it will take years for our healthcare system and our communities to recover. Healthcare organizations continue to experience untold strain, and we need financial stability, not cuts, to survive in the present.