

Radiology Lobbying



Most Federal Issues

- Direct/Indirect Impact on Radiology
- Who's With Us
- Who's Against Us
- Cost
- Likelihood of Success

State Issues

- Usually defer to State Rad Society
- ACR serves as a Resource

2020 Issues

- **E/M Cuts**
- **Surprise Medical Billing**
- **Medical Liability (relating to Covid-19)**
- **Maintaining coverage for mammography, lung and other cancer screenings**
- **Covid-relief assistance (business loans, PPE, etc)**
- **Telehealth initiatives**
- **GME Slots**

E/M Cuts

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, passed with bipartisan majorities by Congress and signed into law by the President on Dec. 27. The bill **rolls back the Medicare payment cuts to radiologists, due to E/M changes, by more than half – from 10% to approximately 4% for 2021 – with further, phased-in adjustments thereafter.**

E/M ROI

Reduced proposed cut of 10% to under 4% means ...

Savings of \$700 Million over next three years

Roughly \$15,000 per radiologist (based on 45,000 radiologists)

In '22 & '23, without any legislative changes, projected cuts 7% - 8%

Surprise Billing

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, also included - as recommended by the physician community - improved **legislation that consumers are held harmless from “surprise medical bills” and establishes an equitable process for provider-insurer dispute resolution.**

At the urging of the ACR, RBMA and others in the physician community, Congress:

- **Removed the monetary threshold** to access independent dispute resolution;
- **Removed provisions using median in-network rate** as initial benchmark for payment;
- **Removed** the logistically problematic **timely billing provisions**; and
- Inserted language to **explicitly exclude Medicare, Medicaid and workers’ compensation payment rates** from consideration in the **independent dispute resolution process**

Other Successes

- **Paycheck Protection Program:** Congress also included a provision clarifying that small businesses can deduct payroll and other expenses paid for with forgiven Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans.
- **Radiation Oncology Payment Model:** As supported by the ACR, implementation of the Radiation Oncology Payment Model (RO Model) is delayed until Jan. 1, 2022.
- **Access to Critical Cancer-Related Screenings:** The Omnibus bill features an extension (through Jan. 1, 2023) in implementing the 2009 United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) screening mammography recommendations. Without this added protection, mammography coverage for women younger than 50 may have been impacted starting Jan. 1, 2022. The extension ensures that women ages 40 and older who want annual screening mammograms will retain insurance coverage with no copay.
- **Expansion of Graduate Medical Education Program(s):** Marking the first expansion in nearly 25 years, the Omnibus bill included 1,000 new Medicare-supported GME positions.

Now What in This Congress?

Congressional Composition

- Tight margin in House:

Democrats 220 to 212 GOP (3 vacant)

- Essentially no margin in Senate:

Democrats 50 to 50 GOP (Dem in majority)

- Very contentious political climate

What's at Top of Congressional To Do List

Infrastructure Bill

- *\$550 billion bipartisan infrastructure bill* (2,702 pages)
- CBO just announced that *bill would raise deficit \$256B over 10 years*

Domestic Spending Bill

- Senate Democrats pushing *\$3.5 trillion domestic spending plan*
- Senate Democrats intend to use *budget reconciliation to pass their plan.*
- **Budget Reconciliation** is legislative process whereby bills can be passed on spending, revenue, and debt limit, and *requires simple majority in Senate.*

Debt ceiling

- How does package work out – deadline was July 31 but Treasury Department used "extraordinary measures" to avoid default and extend through the Fall.



Contributions Made

RADPAC has an “R” and a “D”

- Past record on healthcare/radiology issues
- Professional background
- Relationships with radiologists
- Committees
- Leadership
- “Rising Star”

Current ratio is right at 50% to each party

Still Visible & Impactful

Coalition letter signed by 103 provider organizations to Congressional leaders asking “for Congress and the Administration to make a critical investment in the nation’s health care delivery system by maintaining the 3.75% increase to the CF through at least calendar years 2022 and 2023.”

RADPAC has raised over \$100k for Members of Congress by hosting 6 fundraising events this year already, including ones for Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer as well as for House Republican Rep. Adam Kinzinger and Republican Senator Tim Scott, among others.

Top Doc PACs in 2020

	<u>2020 Hard \$</u>	<u>2020 Total \$</u>
1. American Society of Anesthesiologists	\$2,397,272	\$2,411,905
2. American Assn of Orthopaedic Surgeons	\$1,160,520	\$1,829,948
3. American Dental Association	\$1,060,000	\$1,560,000
4. RADPAC	\$910,641	\$940,641
5. American College of Emergency Physicians	\$820,054	\$869,635
6. American Academy of Dermatology Assn	\$694,000	\$752,000
7. American Academy of Ophthalmology	\$436,821	\$657,521
8. American College of Ob-Gyns	\$426,844	\$426,844
9. American College of Surgeons	\$319,735	\$324,745
10. American Academy of Family Physicians	\$319,587	\$345,438
11. American College of Cardiology	\$295,267	\$345,019

RADPAC Support from Virginia

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Contributors	30	61	75
Contribution Dollars	\$11,121	\$25,496	\$30,245
Percentage of Chapter Support	5%	10%	12%

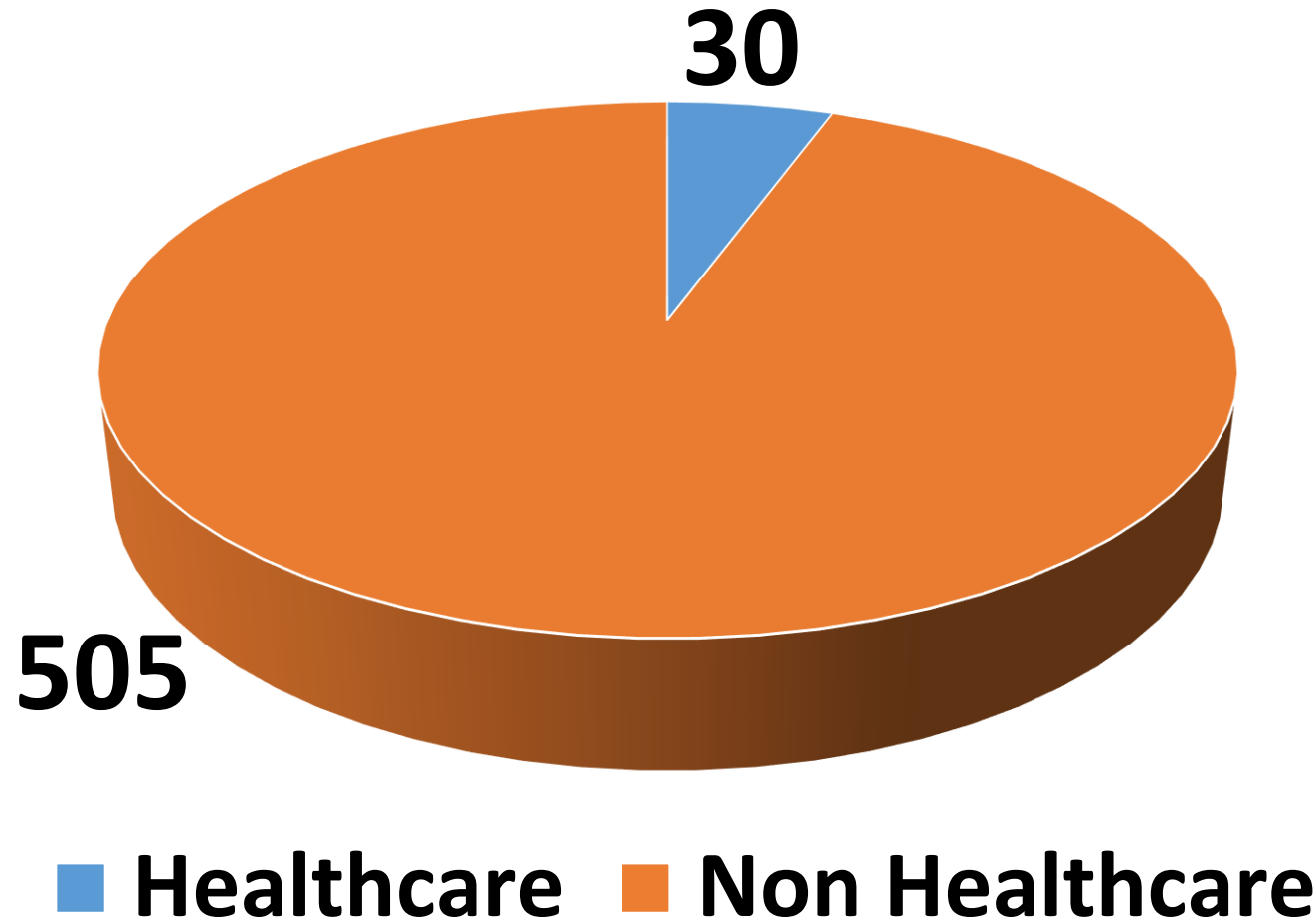
2021

Medical Center Radiologists
Radiology Consultants of Lynchburg

2020

Commonwealth Radiology, P.C.
Hampton Roads Radiology Associates
Medical Center Radiologists
Radiology Consultants of Lynchburg

Members of Congress Background: Why Important



94% of Congress
has NO
healthcare
background

What YOU Can Do To Make A Difference

Contribute to RADPAC

Host a Facility Visit

Become a RAN Advocate

Contact:

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