SAMPLE LETTER - please copy and adjust language to make it reflect your practice.

Dear Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS),

I am writing to express my concern regarding the misvaluation of fine needle aspiration (FNA) procedures: **file code CMS-1807-P**. The significant decrease in reimbursement for FNA by CMS in 2019 has had adverse effects on patient care, access to healthcare services, and overall healthcare costs.

The impact of decreased reimbursement has led to a decrease in the willingness of physicians to learn and offer FNA procedures. This has resulted in reduced access to timely and accurate diagnoses, with claims for FNA decreasing by 18% since 2018. The implications of delayed or inadequate testing can lead to worsened patient outcomes, particularly in rural and low-income communities that already face challenges in accessing healthcare services.

The decrease in compensation has led to a shift of FNA procedures from office settings to facilities, with radiologists taking on a larger percentage. This trend is evident in the increase in claims for hospital facilities from 52.06% to 55.08% between 2018 and 2021. Performing these procedures in a facility setting, as opposed to by an endocrinologist or surgeon who is managing the patient and performing the procedure in an outpatient setting has significantly increased costs for Medicare by 524%.

The impact on training is also concerning to me. The reduction in reimbursement has led to a decreased focus on teaching FNA procedures to trainees, which could have long-term consequences on the quality of care provided in the future. This lack of education and training may exacerbate the existing challenges faced by healthcare professionals and patients alike.

In light of these issues, I urge CMS to reevaluate the reimbursement of FNA procedures and consider the broader implications on patient care, healthcare costs, and medical education. Fair reimbursement for FNA procedures is crucial to ensuring access to quality healthcare services and accurate diagnoses for all patients.

Thank you for considering this important matter. Sincerely,

*[Your Name]*

*City, State of practice*

*Consider adding your email if you choose*