ASCO Applauds Congress for Making MACRA Work, Committing to Cancer Research in Latest Budget Bill

Statement by ASCO President Bruce E. Johnson, MD, FASCO
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“The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) commends Congress for passing a continuing resolution that includes an important correction to the Merit-based Incentive Payment System. This move will ensure that quality payment adjustments under the program are applied only to fee schedule services, ensuring fairness and that patients with cancer can continue to access to high-quality care. ASCO strongly advocated for this correction and applauds Congress for understanding our concerns and taking decisive action on this issue.

We are also pleased to see a budget deal that commits to at least a $2 billion funding increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to reclaim America’s leadership in cancer research and continue building on our tremendous progress towards understanding, preventing, and treating cancer. This is a longstanding concern and focus of ours and a vast majority of our nation as demonstrated in a recent ASCO study showing that 91% of Americans believe the United States should increase funding for cancer research. With the passage of this funding bill, Congress is clearly reflecting our national desire to make faster scientific progress. We are deeply grateful to our strong advocates in Congress from both parties who have continued to fight for increased funding for cancer research.”

About ASCO:
Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO®) is committed to making a world of difference in cancer care. As the world's leading organization of its kind, ASCO represents more than 40,000 oncology professionals who care for people living with cancer. Through research, education, and promotion of the highest-quality patient care, ASCO works to conquer cancer and create a world where cancer is prevented or cured, and every survivor is healthy. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation. Learn more at www.ASCO.org, explore patient education resources at www.Cancer.Net, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.