

November 16, 2020

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD
U.S. House of Representative
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brendan Boyle
U.S. House of Representatives
1133 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Holding
U.S. House of Representatives
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Phil Roe, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Marshall, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bera, Bucshon, Boyle, Holding, Ruiz, Roe, Finkenauer, and Marshall:

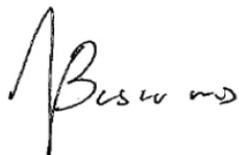
The undersigned organizations, representing a wide variety of musculoskeletal healthcare professionals, write to thank you for leadership in introducing H.R. 8702, the Holding Providers Harmless from Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020. This bill, which would mitigate the devastating Medicare cuts slated to go into effect on January 1, 2021, provides critical support to orthopaedic surgeons, allowing for access to musculoskeletal services by our nation's senior population.

Orthopaedic surgeons across the country play a critical role in safeguarding musculoskeletal health, treating bone cancers, chronic mobility problems, workplace injuries, and other pressing conditions. It is essential that access to these services by the American public remain when the COVID-19 public health emergency is over. In surveys conducted of orthopaedic healthcare professionals in the spring of 2020, nearly 80% of respondents considered responding to the pent-up demand for patient care, to be the primary challenge for the remainder of this year. Practices are still struggling to treat backlogs of patients amid rising demand for operating room time, rising COVID-19 infection rates, and the continual need for access to musculoskeletal care for patients. Now is not the time to limit access to this essential care through destabilizing cuts to Medicare.

Our organizations are proud to offer our support for H.R. 8702, the Holding Providers Harmless from Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020, and the two years of relief it will provide to Medicare orthopaedic professionals who are continuing to serve elderly and vulnerable populations across this country. We look forward to continuing to work with you as the champions of this vital legislation, to further congressional

support and eventual passage of H.R. 8702 in upcoming congressional packages in 2020. Our organizations look forward to continuing collaboration with you, your House colleagues, and congressional leadership as we pursue the advancement of this legislation and its policies. If you have any questions, please contact Madeline Kroll (kroll@aaos.org) at the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Bosco, III, MD, FAAOS
President, American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

cc: Daniel K. Guy, MD, FAAOS, AAOS First Vice-President
Felix H. Savoie, III, MD, FAAOS, AAOS Second Vice-President
Thomas E. Arend, Jr., Esq., CAE, AAOS Chief Executive Officer
William Shaffer, MD, FAAOS, AAOS Medical Director
Graham Newson AAOS Director, Office of Government Relations

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| Alabama Orthopaedic Society | National Association of Spine Specialists |
| American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons | Nebraska Orthopedic Society |
| American Association of Orthopaedic Executives | New York State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons |
| American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society | North Carolina Orthopaedic Association |
| American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine | North Dakota Orthopaedic Society |
| American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics | Ohio Orthopaedic Society |
| American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons | Oregon Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons |
| American Spinal Injury Association | OrthoAtlanta |
| American Society for Surgery of the Hand | OrthoForum |
| Arkansas Orthopaedic Society | OrthoSC |
| Arizona Orthopaedic Society | Orthopaedic Trauma Association |
| Arthroscopy Association of North America | Peachtree Orthopaedics |
| Atlantic Orthopaedic Specialists | Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America |
| California Orthopaedic Association | Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society |
| Cervical Spine Research Society | Premier Orthopaedics |
| Connecticut Orthopaedic Society | Resurgens Orthopaedics |
| Delaware Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons | Rhode Island Orthopaedic Society |
| EmergeOrtho | Rothman Orthopaedic Institute |
| Florida Orthopaedic Society | Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Society |
| Georgia Orthopaedic Society | Scoliosis Research Society |
| Illinois Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons | Signature Medical Group |
| Iowa Orthopaedic Society | South Carolina Orthopaedic Association |
| Kansas Orthopaedic Society | South Dakota State Orthopaedic Society |
| Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Society | Tennessee Orthopaedic Society |
| Louisiana Orthopaedic Association | Texas Orthopaedic Association |
| Maryland Orthopaedic Association | Washington State Orthopaedic Association |
| Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association | West Virginia Orthopaedic Society |
| Michigan Orthopaedic Society | Wisconsin Orthopaedic Society |
| Midlands Orthopaedics & Neurosurgery | Wyoming Orthopaedic Society |
| Missouri State Orthopaedic Association | Valdosta Orthopedic Associates |
| Montana Orthopedic Society | Virginia Orthopaedic Society |
| Musculoskeletal Tumor Society | |