

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

Alabama Orthopaedic Society
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Executives
American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society
American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons
American Spinal Injury Association
American Society for Surgery of the Hand
Arkansas Orthopaedic Society
Arizona Orthopaedic Society
Arthroscopy Association of North America
Atlantic Orthopaedic Specialists
California Orthopaedic Association
Cervical Spine Research Society
Connecticut Orthopaedic Society
Delaware Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons
EmergeOrtho
Florida Orthopaedic Society
Georgia Orthopaedic Society
Illinois Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
Iowa Orthopaedic Society
Kansas Orthopaedic Society
Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Society
Louisiana Orthopaedic Association
Maryland Orthopaedic Association
Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association
Michigan Orthopaedic Society
Midlands Orthopaedics & Neurosurgery
Missouri State Orthopaedic Association
Montana Orthopedic Society
Musculoskeletal Tumor Society

National Association of Spine Specialists
Nebraska Orthopedic Society
New York State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons
North Carolina Orthopaedic Association
North Dakota Orthopaedic Society
Ohio Orthopaedic Society
Oregon Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
OrthoAtlanta
OrthoForum
OrthoSC
Orthopaedic Trauma Association
Peachtree Orthopaedics
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America
Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society
Premier Orthopaedics
Resurgens Orthopaedics
Rhode Island Orthopaedic Society
Rothman Orthopaedic Institute
Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Society
Scoliosis Research Society
Signature Medical Group
South Carolina Orthopaedic Association
South Dakota State Orthopaedic Society
Tennessee Orthopaedic Society
Texas Orthopaedic Association
Washington State Orthopaedic Association
West Virginia Orthopaedic Society
Wisconsin Orthopaedic Society
Wyoming Orthopaedic Society
Valdosta Orthopedic Associates
Virginia Orthopaedic Society