

July 16, 2026

The Honorable John Joyce, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
2102 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Greg Murphy, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Representatives Joyce, Murphy, and Schrier,

On behalf of the undersigned surgical coalition members, we write to thank you for your work on the Patients First Act of 2026. This legislation, as currently written, begins to address some of the long-needed reforms to the Medicare physician payment system.

The open and collaborative environment you have created for stakeholders to come together and discuss what meaningful policies should be included in this legislation has been productive. We appreciate the inclusion of an inflationary update and reforms to the budget neutrality threshold, which reflect longstanding priorities of the physician community. These provisions are an initial step as we continue to seek progress toward enhancing the long-term stability of the Medicare physician payment system.

Thank you for your ongoing work on this issue. We look forward to continuing the conversation to address the many long-term challenges in the Medicare payment system. We are committed to working with you to continue to improve the legislation as it moves through the process.

Sincerely,

American College of Surgeons

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society

American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

American Society of Anesthesiology

American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Society for Vascular Surgery

The American Society of Breast Surgeons

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons