



## AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Inspiring Quality:  
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes

100+years

**Chicago Headquarters**  
633 N. Saint Clair Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-3295  
Voice: 312-202-5000  
Fax: 312-202-5001  
E-mail: postmaster@facs.org

**Washington Office**  
20 F Street, NW Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20001  
Voice: 202-337-2701  
Fax: 202-337-4271  
E-mail: djohnson@facs.org  
facs.org

### OFFICERS

#### President

J. Wayne Meredith, MD, FACS, MCCM  
Winston-Salem, NC

#### Immediate Past-President

Valerie W. Rusch, MD, FACS  
New York, NY

#### President-Elect

Julie A. Freischlag, MD, FACS  
Winston-Salem, NC

#### First Vice-President

H. Randolph Bailey, MD, FACS, FASCRS  
Houston, TX

#### First Vice-President-Elect

Quan-Yang Duh, MD, FACS  
San Francisco, CA

#### Second Vice-President

Lisa A. Newman, MD, MPH, FACS, FASCO  
New York, NY

#### Second Vice-President-Elect

Richard A. Lynn, MD, FACS  
Palm Beach, FL

#### Secretary

Tyler G. Hughes, MD, FACS  
Salina, KS

#### Treasurer

Don K. Nakayama, MD, MBA, FACS  
Chapel Hill, NC

#### Executive Director

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS  
Chicago, IL

#### Chief Financial Officer

Gay L. Vincent, CPA  
Chicago, IL

### BOARD OF REGENTS

#### Chair

L. Scott Levin, MD, FACS  
Philadelphia, PA

#### Vice-Chair

Steven D. Waxner, MD, PhD(Hon), FACS,  
FRCS(Eng), FRCS(Ed), FRCS(Hon), FRCS(Glasg)(Hon)  
Weston, FL

Anthony Atala, MD, FACS  
Winston-Salem, NC

John L. D. Atkinson, MD, FACS  
Rochester, MN

Francoise P. Chagnon, MD, FACS, FRCS  
Montreal, QC

Annesley (AJ) W. Copeland, MD, FACS  
Washington, DC

James C. Demmeny III, MD, FACS  
Alexandria, VA

Timothy J. Eberlein, MD, FACS  
Saint Louis, MO

Diana L. Farmer, MD, FACS, FRCS  
Sacramento, CA

Henri R. Ford, MD, FACS  
Miami, FL

James W. Gigantelli, MD, FACS  
Huntington, WV

Sean C. Grondin, MD, MPH, FACS, FRCS  
Calgary, AB

Enrique Hernandez, MD, FACS  
Philadelphia, PA

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS  
New York, NY

Lena M. Napolitano, MD, FACS  
Ann Arbor, MI

Linda G. Phillips, MD, FACS  
Galveston, TX

Kenneth W. Sharp, MD, FACS  
Nashville, TN

Anton N. Sidawy, MD, FACS  
Washington, DC

Steven C. Stain, MD, FACS  
Albany, NY

Beth H. Sutton, MD, FACS  
Wichita Falls, TX

Gary L. Timmerman, MD, FACS  
Sioux Falls, SD

David J. Welsh, MD, MBA, FACS  
Batesville, IN

Douglas E. Wood, MD, FACS  
Seattle, WA

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### Chair

Ronald J. Weigel, MD, PhD, FACS  
Iowa City, IA

#### Vice-Chair

Nancy Lynn Ganitt, MD, FACS  
Youngstown, OH

#### Secretary

Andre R. Campbell, MD, FACS  
San Francisco, CA

October 19, 2021

The Honorable Roger Marshall, MD  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Marshall, Sinema, and Thune:

On behalf of the more than 82,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I would like to express our support for the bipartisan *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*. This legislation is a critical step in improving transparency and efficiency of the prior authorization (PA) process in the Medicare Advantage (MA) program.

Utilization review tools such as PA can sometimes play a role in ensuring patients receive clinically appropriate treatment while controlling costs. However, the ACS is concerned about the growing administrative burdens and the delays in medically necessary care associated with excessive PA requirements. Surgical patients are encountering barriers to timely access to care due to onerous and unnecessary PA requests from MA plans.

The *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act* would establish a real-time, electronic PA process, minimize the use of PA for routinely approved services, and ensure PA requests are reviewed by qualified medical personnel. Additionally, the legislation will bring greater transparency to the PA process by requiring MA plans to submit data to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on their use of PA and the rate at which authorization is delayed or denied for services eligible for coverage under the MA program, including surgeries and other invasive procedures. This is an important step in working towards addressing MA plans' undue use of PA for medically necessary services performed during an operation.

We are pleased that the legislation includes some beneficiary protection standards to ensure continuity of care and we hope this legislation will serve as a stepping-stone for further patient protections and standardization of PA requirements. By bringing transparency to MA plans' usage of PA, this legislation will help to ensure timely access to patient care. Thank you for your efforts and leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS  
Executive Director