



## AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Inspiring Quality:  
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes

100+years

### Chicago Headquarters

633 N. Saint Clair Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-3211

Voice: 312-202-5000

Fax: 312-202-5001

E-mail: [postmaster@facs.org](mailto: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](mailto:djohnson@facs.org)

[facs.org](http://facs.org)

### OFFICERS

#### President

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

#### Immediate Past-President

Ronald V. Maier, MD, FACS  
Seattle, WA

#### President-Elect

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

#### First Vice-President

John A. Weigelt, MD, DVM, FACS  
Sioux Falls, SD

#### First Vice-President-Elect

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

#### Second Vice-President

F. Dean Griffen, MD, FACS  
Shreveport, LA

#### Second Vice-President-Elect

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

#### 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

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

#### Vice-Chair

L. Scott Levin, MD, FACS  
Philadelphia, PA

Anthony Atala, MD, FACS  
Winston-Salem, NC

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

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

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

James K. Eelsey, MD, FACS  
Atlanta, GA

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

Henri R. Ford, MD, FACS  
Miami, FL

Gerald M. Fried, MD, FACS, FRCS  
Montreal, QC

James W. Gigantelli, MD, FACS  
Huntington, WV

B.J. Hancock, MD, FACS, FRCS  
Winnipeg, MB

Enrique Hernandez, MD, FACS  
Philadelphia, PA

Lenworth M. Jacobs, Jr., MD, FACS  
Hartford, CT

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

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

Steven D. Wexner, MD, FACS  
Albany, NY

Douglas E. Wood, MD, FACS  
Seattle, WA

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### Chair

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

#### Vice-Chair

Taylor Sohn Riall, MD, PhD, FACS  
Tucson, AZ

#### Secretary

Mika Sinanan, MD, PhD, FACS  
Seattle, WA

May 19, 2020

The Honorable Kim Schrier, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1123 Longworth H.O.B  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Phil Roe, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
102 Cannon H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schrier and Roe:

On behalf of the more than 82,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I write in support of the *Health Care at Home Act* (H.R. 6644). This important legislation would establish payment parity between telehealth and in-office visits by requiring private payers, including employer-provided plans under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), to reimburse telehealth services for normally covered benefits at the same rate as if they were office visits during the declared COVID-19 public health emergency.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has made several important regulatory changes to ease regulatory barriers to telehealth and enforce payment parity for telehealth visits during the declared COVID-19 public health emergency for Medicare beneficiaries. But private payers, including employer-provided ERISA health plans, have not necessarily followed suit. Aligning private payer policies with Medicare is vital as the use of telehealth and other virtual services is critical to reducing patient and physician exposure to COVID-19 and ensuring continuity of care for patients during this public health emergency.

The ACS strongly supports the *Health Care at Home Act* and believes that reimbursing telehealth services at the same rate as in-person care would increase access to care during the declared COVID-19 public health emergency. Thank you for your efforts and continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS  
Executive Director