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

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: ahp@facs.org

facs.org

June 27, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators McConnell and Schumer:

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) has deep concerns with provisions in the Better Care Reconciliation Act and how they would impact access to surgical care. Accordingly, the ACS is unable to support the legislation as currently drafted and we urge the Senate to make significant changes to the legislation before voting on the bill.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the legislation would increase the number of people who are uninsured by 22 million. This runs directly contrary to the College's health care reform principles. The ACS believes strongly that legislation should not facilitate a reduction in the number of Americans currently insured.

The College also believes that the Essential Health Benefits (EHBs) mandated under the Affordable Care Act are critical to protecting access to surgical care. We are concerned that allowing states the opportunity to waive any of these ten EHBs may have a significant negative consequence for patients.

The American College of Surgeons remains committed to working with Congress toward needed reforms to our health care system in order to improve patient access to surgical care.

Sincerely,

Courtney M. Townsend, Jr., MD, FACS
ACS President

Michael J. Zinner, MD, FACS
ACS Chair, Board of Regents

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
ACS Executive Director

Marshall Z. Schwartz, MD, FACS
Chair, Health Policy Advocacy Group

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