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

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