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September 5, 2018

The Honorable Joe Barton
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor
U.S. House of Representatives
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Barton and Representative Castor:

On behalf of the more than 80,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 3325, the *Advancing Care for Exceptional (ACE) Kids Act of 2017*. This legislation will play a large role in coordinating care and ensuring optimal outcomes for children with complex medical conditions within the Medicaid system. We appreciate your leadership on this issue, which is important to so many of our patients.

Children with medical complexity may have multiple illnesses and subsequently several physicians and/or specialists – this can often require significant travel, even across state lines. Under the current Medicaid system, it can be extremely difficult for families to coordinate the care for a child with medical complexity, especially when multiple states are involved. The *ACE Kids Act* creates an organized health care delivery system for this unique population of children by helping to improve their access to and quality of care. In addition, the bill allows for the creation of nationally designated children's hospital networks to care for these children and assist in coordinating their care.

Care coordination is essential for the growing number of children who have complex medical conditions and require access to specialists and services – this legislation is a great step forward in making this a reality. We thank you again for your leadership and commitment towards building a better network of care for so many of our nation's families who are dealing with the daunting task of caring for a loved one with medical complexity.

We look forward to working with you as the *ACE Kids Act* advances through the legislative process. For questions or additional information, please contact Justin Rosen in the ACS Division of Advocacy and Health Policy – jrosen@facs.org or 202-672-1528.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director, American College of Surgeons

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