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October 17, 2019

The Honorable Bill Flores
U.S. House of Representatives
2228 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roger Marshall MD
U.S. House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Babin DDS
U.S. House of Representatives
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Flores, Marshall, and Babin:

On behalf of the more than 82,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I would like to express our support of the *Health Care Safety Net Enhancement Act*, H.R. 3984. This legislation would improve patient access to emergency care services by providing liability protection to the surgeons working under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) mandate.

EMTALA mandates that a physician provide care to stabilize a patient who presents at a hospital emergency department. Surgeons in emergency settings provide complex, high-risk surgical care for severely injured patients, often with minimal information about the patient. Unfortunately, the high liability risk associated with providing such care is broadly acknowledged as a key factor contributing to the growing shortage of specialists participating in emergency on-call panels.

H.R. 3984, would address the high liability risk that accompanies care provided as a result of EMTALA by providing Public Health Service Act liability protections for physicians providing EMTALA mandated care.

Thank you for your efforts and continued leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you to protect surgeons and the patients they serve.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director

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