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June 14, 2019

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
1502 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adrian Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
502 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Darrin LaHood
U.S. House of Representatives
1424 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Finkenauer, Smith, Kind, and LaHood:

On behalf of the more than 82,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I write in support of the *Keep Physicians Serving Patients Act of 2019*. This legislation would improve the way geographic practice cost indices (GPCIs) are calculated to better support rural surgeons.

Increasing evidence indicates there is a current and growing shortage of surgeons available to serve our nation's population. This is particularly true in rural communities.

Currently, GPCIs are being calculated using inaccurate and outdated numbers that underestimate the cost of practicing in non-urban areas. This legislation improves that calculation and establishes a set minimum based on specific regions. This will ensure physicians are appropriately reimbursed for the care they provide as well as help to incentivize new talent to practice in rural settings.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this vital issue. We look forward to working with you to assist rural surgeons and the patients they serve.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director

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