MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION
A.7108 Pretlow

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to
Making technical changes to the scope of practice of podiatry

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) joins with the New York Chapter of the ACS to strongly oppose the enactment of A.7108 (Pretlow), which would authorize all podiatrists to be engaged in the diagnosing, treating, operating or prescribing for cutaneous conditions of the leg below the knee regardless of whether or not they have received advanced licenses for these procedures.

The ACS has a strong history of addressing matters relating to patient care and safety, and we are concerned that the proposed legislation would allow podiatrists to practice medicine without the same education/training requirements imposed on medical doctors. The practice of medicine is defined as diagnosing, treating, operating or prescribing for any human disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition. The same educational and training requirements are not mandated for podiatrists and therefore put patients at risk when allowing podiatrists to perform procedures outside of their scope of training and expertise.

Expanding the scope of podiatry into the practice of medicine does not support efforts to improve patient care and safety. In fact, it compromises existing patient protections and exposes New York citizens to unsafe practice environments and procedures. To ensure the best possible outcomes, surgical care below the knee should be provided by a Medical Doctor or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine as licensed by the State of New York.

About The American College of Surgeons
The American College of Surgeons is a scientific and educational organization of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to raise the standards of surgical practice and to improve the care of the surgical patient. The College is dedicated to the ethical and competent practice of surgery. Its achievements have significantly influenced the course of scientific surgery in America and have established it as an important advocate for all surgical patients. The College has more than 78,000 members and is the largest organization of surgeons in the world. For more information, visit www.facs.org.