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May 21, 2020

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet
U.S. Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Shaheen and Bennet:

On behalf of the more than 82,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I would like to express our support for the *Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payments Improvement Act*, S. 3750. This legislation is essential for ensuring physicians have access to critical financial resources during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* expanded the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Accelerated and Advance Payment (AAP) Program to allow for hospitals, physicians, and other Medicare-participating providers to apply for upfront payments from Medicare to help cover revenue shortfalls during the public health emergency related to COVID-19. However, the ACS was dismayed by the details released by CMS which have rendered the program unworkable for physician practices in the short term.

By reducing interest rates (currently set as high as 10.25%) to 1% and modifying repayment obligations to provide more time for physicians, the changes made by this legislation would collectively bring additional flexibility to the AAP Program that will greatly enhance its utility to physician practices coping with the current COVID crisis.

The ACS strongly supports the *Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payments Improvement Act* and thanks you for your leadership to help preserve our health care system during the current public health emergency.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director

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