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June 1, 2020

The Honorable Phil Roe, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lou Correa
U.S. House of Representatives
1039 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Roe and Correa,

On behalf of more than 82,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I write in support of H.R. 7059, the *Coronavirus Provider Protection Act*. This legislation provides protections to surgeons and other health care professionals from unnecessary lawsuits as they care for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Surgeons are putting themselves at risk each day in response to the COVID-19 crisis as they provide care and comfort to their patients. COVID-19 has disrupted the entire healthcare landscape and has caused various scenarios that pose substantial liability risk to physicians. For example, surgeons who have left the practice of medicine have been asked to come out of retirement to address the shortage of healthcare providers; elective surgeries and procedures were delayed in order to preserve capacity for those with coronavirus; and healthcare professionals have treated patients with inadequate safety equipment potentially resulting in the transmission of the virus.

None of these scenarios are the result of intentional wrongdoing. Rather, these circumstances are unavoidable as healthcare professionals and the facilities in which they operate are forced to shift limited resources to address urgent needs under the restrictions, recommendations, or guidance issued by government officials.

The protections afforded by your legislation would ensure that healthcare professionals on the frontline of this pandemic do not face unwarranted legal action for their efforts. Action at the federal level would further avoid the confusing patchwork of liability laws across the country by providing a uniform level of security for those caring for patients during the COVID-19 health emergency.

Thank you for your efforts and leadership on this issue, ACS strongly supports the *Coronavirus Provider Protection Act* and looks forward to working together to ensure its enactment.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director