



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Inspiring Quality:

Highest Standards, Better Outcomes

100+years

Legislative Successes for the 115th Congress

Congress passed and the President signed a number of bills into law supported by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). A few of the addressed ACS policy priorities highlighted below.

- ✓ **Easing Meaningful Use Requirements** – A burdensome mandate that HHS continue to make MU standards increasingly stringent over time.
- ✓ **Ensuring Access to General Surgery** – Guides HHS to study workforce shortages in general surgery and provide a report to Congress to encourage further action.
- ✓ **Funding the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for a Decade** – Brings stability to this essential program, ensuring that children have access to health care and preventive care options, including surgery.
- ✓ **Repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board** – Completely eliminates this unelected, unaccountable body that could levy disproportionate cuts on physicians.
- ✓ **Increasing Flexibility of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System** – Provided an extension period of flexibility for the cost component of MIPS, and a gradual and incremental transition for the Performance Threshold.
- ✓ **Preventing Further Mandates on Physicians in the Opioid Package** – ACS actively advocated for patient and provider education-focused solutions to address the opioid crisis and discouraged “one-size-fits-all” legislative mandates on prescribers.
- ✓ **Funding for Cancer Research Hits 15 Year High** – Funding for the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute, and the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot mean more cures for more patients world-wide.
- ✓ **Addressing School Violence** – New federal grants designed to assist schools with safety training and enhancements to school property.

(Over)

- ✓ **Streamlining the Reporting Process for Background Checks** – Enhances the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).
- ✓ **Supporting New Trauma Research** – Stresses the importance of trauma research and pediatric trauma care.
- ✓ **Promoting Stop the Bleed®** – Language recognizing the importance of Stop the Bleed training included in legislation and highlighted by members of the House and Senate through Congressional Record Statements commemorating the 2018 National Stop the Bleed Day (March 31, 2018).
- ✓ **Updating and Improving Cancer Research and Treatment for Children** – The comprehensive Childhood Cancer STAR Act modernizes and improves research and treatment for children with cancer.
- ✓ **Reauthorizing and Funding Children’s Hospital GME (CHGME)** – This significant funding for children’s hospitals assists with the training of pediatric physicians for five years.
- ✓ **Funding Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) for Another 5 Years** – Provides critical funding to EMSC, which is the only federal program dedicated to improving emergency care for children.
- ✓ **Lessening Burdens by Creating Electronic Prior Authorization** – Allows for creation of electronic transmission standards for Part D drugs.