

Officers

President

Patricia J. Numann, MD, FACS
Syracuse, NY

President-Elect

A. Brent Eastman, MD, FACS
San Diego, CA

First Vice-President

Robert R. Bahnson, MD, FACS
Columbus, OH

First Vice-President-Elect

R. Phillip Burns, MD, FACS
Chattanooga, TN

Second Vice-President-Elect

John. M. Daly, MD, FACS
Philadelphia, PA

Secretary

Courtney M. Townsend, Jr., MD, FACS
Galveston, TX

Treasurer

Andrew L. Warshaw, MD, FACS
Boston, MA

Executive Director

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Chicago, IL

Chief Financial Officer

Gay L. Vincent, CPA
Chicago, IL

Board of Regents

Chair

J. David Richardson, MD, FACS
Louisville, KY

Vice-Chair

Martin B. Camins, MD, FACS
New York, NY

H. Randolph Bailey, MD, FACS
Houston, TX

Bruce D. Browner, MD, FACS
Farmington, CT

Margaret Dunn, MD, FACS
Dayton, OH

James K. Elsey, MD, FACS
Lawrenceville, GA

Julie A. Freischlag, MD, FACS
Baltimore, MD

Gerald M. Fried, MD, FACS, FRCSC
Montreal, QC

Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS
Memphis, TN

B. J. Hancock, MD, FACS, FRCSC
Winnipeg, MB

Lenworth M. Jacobs, Jr., MD, FACS
Hartford, CT

Mark A. Malangoni, MD, FACS
Philadelphia, PA

Raymond F. Morgan, MD, FACS
Charlottesville, VA

Leigh A. Neumayer, MD, FACS
Salt Lake City, UT

Karl C. Podratz, MD, FACS
Rochester, MN

Valerie W. Rusch, MD, FACS
New York, NY

Marshall Z. Schwartz, MD, FACS
Philadelphia, PA

Howard M. Snyder III, MD, FACS
Philadelphia, PA

Mark C. Weissler, MD, FACS
Chapel Hill, NC

Thomas V. Whalen, MD, FACS
Allentown, PA

Michael J. Zinner, MD, FACS
Boston, MA

Board of Governors

Chair

Lena M. Napolitano, MD, FACS
Ann Arbor, MI

Vice-Chair

Gary L. Timmerman, MD, FACS
Sioux Falls, SD

Secretary

William G. Cioffi, Jr., MD, FACS
Providence, RI



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Inspiring Quality:

Highest Standards, Better Outcomes

Washington Office:

20 F Street, NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20001

Voice: 202-337-2701

Fax: 202-337-4271

e-mail: postmaster@facs.org

ACS website: www.facs.org

Chicago Headquarters:

633 N. Saint Clair St.
Chicago, IL 60611-3211

Voice: 312-202-5000

Fax: 312-202-5001

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Joe Pitts
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pitts:

On behalf of the more than 75,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I write to express our opposition to the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) and to commend you for marking up H.R. 452, the Medicare Decisions Accountability Act. This important legislation, introduced by Congressman Phil Roe (TN-01), currently has 224 bipartisan cosponsors.

The Committee's consideration of H.R. 452 is an important step in preserving Congress' role in Medicare payment policy. Leaving payment policy decisions in the hands of an unelected, unaccountable governmental body with minimal congressional oversight will negatively impact the availability of quality, efficient health care to Medicare beneficiaries and all Americans.

The 15 presidentially appointed members of the IPAB will be required to recommend changes to meet Medicare spending targets starting in 2014, essentially eliminating the transparency of Congressional hearings and markups. With hospitals and others exempt through 2019, physicians who currently face cuts to reimbursements of 32 percent on January 1, 2013, could see even deeper cuts in the first several years of the IPAB.

Again, thank you for your leadership and we look forward to working with you toward a more efficient Medicare payment system that reduces costs by placing the emphasis on higher quality care and better outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David B. Hoyt".

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director

CC: Congressman Phil Roe (TN-01)

U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health