



**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
OTOLARYNGOLOGY—
HEAD AND NECK SURGERY**

May 23, 2011

The Honorable Tom Price, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Price:

On behalf of the 11,000 members of the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS), thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 969, the “Medical Practice Freedom Act of 2011.” This important legislation preserves the ability of physicians to independently determine their participation in various health plans. **The AAO-HNS supports H.R. 969, and urges passage of this common-sense protection for our nation’s healthcare providers.**

As healthcare-related legislation continues to evolve, it is of paramount importance for Congress to focus on health system reforms that will positively affect the delivery care. Healthcare providers must have the continued freedom to choose where they practice and to which plans they participate. Furthermore, under no circumstances should licensure have a direct correlation with participation in any specific health plan.

The AAO-HNS applauds your leadership on this critical issue and looks forward to working with you to ensure passage of H.R. 969. If you and your staff have any questions, please contact Megan Marcinko, Senior Manager for Congressional and Political Affairs, at 703-535-3796 or mmarcinko@entnet.org.

Sincerely,

David R. Nielsen, MD
Executive Vice President and CEO

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