



American College of Surgeons

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May 2, 2011

The Honorable Thomas E. Price, MD, FACS
U.S. House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Dr. Price:

On behalf of the more than 75,000 members of the American College of Surgeons, I write to thank you for your introduction of the *Medical Practice Freedom Act of 2011* (H.R. 969). I am pleased to offer the College's support for this important piece of legislation.

The *Medical Practice Freedom Act* would prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services or any state from requiring that a physician or any other health care provider participate in any health plan as a condition of licensure. The American College of Surgeons strongly believes that preserving the independent practice of medicine is critical to efforts aimed at improving patient access to high quality care. In keeping with our principles and commitment to this goal, the College did not support the proposal that would have required participation in the "public option" health plan as a condition of participation in Medicare during the health care reform debate. H.R. 969 would preserve surgeons' ability to make basic practice decisions about how best to serve their patients and help sustain the viability of their practices without the requirement of participating in any particular health plan—public or private—as a condition of licensure.

Thank you for your commitment to improving Americans' access to quality surgical care. The College looks forward to continuing to work with you in this effort in the 112th Congress.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director
American College of Surgeons

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