



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS<sup>®</sup>

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THE PLASTIC SURGERY  
FOUNDATION<sup>™</sup>

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October 20, 2020

The Honorable Herb Conaway, Jr  
Chair, New Jersey Assembly Health Committee  
125 W. State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08625

RE: ASPS support for the *New Jersey Health Care Transparency Act* as passed by Senate

Dear Chair Conaway:

On behalf of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), I am writing in strong support of your legislation, the *New Jersey Health Transparency Act* (A.4143), **as amended** and passed unanimously by the Senate through S.2465.

The Senate language takes your strong measure and enhances it by ensuring that patients receive relevant information regarding physicians' education, training, and certification. ASPS is the largest association of plastic surgeons in the world, including 275 board-certified plastic surgeons in New Jersey. Our mission is to advance quality care for plastic surgery patients and promote public policy that protects patient safety, and the Senate-passed *New Jersey Health Care Transparency Act* will help further that mission.

The term "board certified" has come to signify the highest achievement in clinical training and expertise. When prospective patients seek medical care, the knowledge that a physician is board certified assures them that they are engaging a provider with significant direct training and demonstrated, validated skill in the specialty certification advertised. Unfortunately, however, some certifying organizations allow physicians to claim certification in a specialty or skill for which they have little-to-no independently accredited training.

While your version of the bill gives patients more information in many areas, it does not address board certification. This leaves a major part and critical tool in patients' decision-making vulnerable to misinformation. By adopting the Senate-passed language, your measure will reach its full potential to give consumers accurate information and protect New Jersey's patients. We encourage the committee to amend A.4143 accordingly during its October 21, 2020 hearing.

This is a matter of patient safety. Patients deserve to know that a physician's claimed board certification is a true indicator of his or her training and skill. Raising the bar for use of the term "board certified" clarifies those choices and shields patients from negative consequences.

Thank you for your commitment to patient safety and for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Hermes, ASPS Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, at [phermes@plasticsurgery.org](mailto:phermes@plasticsurgery.org) if there is anything we can do to help advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Losee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joseph E. Losee, MD, FAACS, FAAP  
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons

Cc: Members of the Assembly Health Committee