

Pandemic Relief for Physicians



QUESTIONS TO ASK THE CANDIDATES:

- *Do you support additional financial relief for physicians and plastic surgery practices?*
- *What will you do to protect physicians from frivolous lawsuits during the pandemic?*

ABOUT THE ISSUE:

The cancellation of elective services at the onset of the pandemic resulted in many plastic surgery practices and hospitals temporarily closing their doors and furloughing staff. Despite these financial challenges, physicians have remained committed to ensuring continued access to specialty care during the public health emergency.

ASPS supports the following pandemic solutions:

- Direct financial relief for physicians and medical practices;
- Medical liability protections for physicians serving during the pandemic from frivolous lawsuits;
- Investments into the future of the physician workforce;
- And continued access to PPE supplies and testing capabilities.

Get Out the Vote and Post

HELP ENSURE PLASTIC SURGERY'S VOICE IS HEARD IN WASHINGTON!



Post a picture of you with your “**I voted!**” sticker on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter with the hashtag **#ASPSVOTES** to let us know you joined plastic surgeons across the country get out the vote!

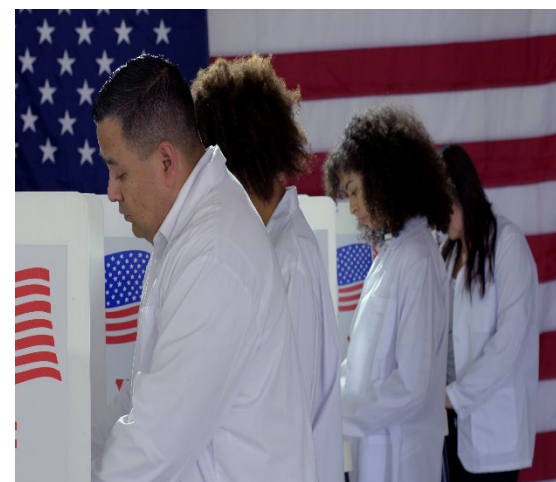
And don't forget to follow us on Instagram **@PlastyPAC** to stay in the know about the latest election news and the PAC's activity.

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2020 VOTER GUIDE

Your Vote Impacts Your Practice



PLASTIC SURGERY ISSUES ARE AT STAKE IN NOVEMBER

This year's election will be the most critical election cycle in more than a decade for plastic surgeons. We encourage you to vote at the polls or by mail in ballot by **November 3, 2020** to protect your patients and practice!

For more information on the issues, please contact ASPS's Director of Government Affairs and Advocacy, Patrick Hermes, at phermes@plasticsurgery.org. You can learn more about how to register and where to vote at www.eac.gov.

Scope of Practice Protections



QUESTIONS TO ASK THE CANDIDATES:

- *Do you oppose laws that expand scope of practice to allow NPs and PAs practice without collaborating with a doctor?*
- *Will you support the physician-led team model of healthcare?*

ABOUT THE ISSUE:

ASPS believes that federal law should be compatible with states that require physician supervision in scope of practice and licensure laws. We oppose congressional efforts to allow non-physicians to perform outside of their scope of practice and training. Over the past year, there have been increased attempts to include scope of practice expansions in Veteran's Health Administration and telemedicine proposals in a misguided effort to increase patients access to quality care. The Society has condemned these efforts because we know that expanding non-physician scope of practice does not increase access to care in underserved areas.

¹ The AMA Health Workforce Mapper, 1995-2020. <https://www.ama-assn.org/about/health-workforce-mapper>.

Fair Balance Billing Reimbursement

QUESTIONS TO ASK THE CANDIDATES:

- *Do you oppose tying physician reimbursement to the median in-network insurer rate?*
- *How will you strengthen network adequacy requirements to increase patient access to in-network specialty care?*

ABOUT THE ISSUE:

ASPS is committed to solving the nation's problem of unanticipated medical bills and wants to ensure patients are held harmless from billing disputes. We believe that any legislative solution should include an accessible independent dispute resolution (IDR) system and payment criteria that does not tie physician reimbursement to the median in-network rate. This is a complex issue that has the potential to limit patient access to specialty care and increase higher healthcare costs in the long run if it is rushed through Congress. That's why we support the careful and equitable deliberation of this issue through the traditional legislative process.

ASPS's balance billing principles include:

- Removing patients from billing disputes;
- Ensuring patient choice for nonurgent out-of-network care with informed consent;
- Facilitation of a fair contract environment;
- Fair and timely physician payment;
- Adequate insurance networks;
- And coverage of ERISA plans.

Stop Medicare Payment Cuts



QUESTIONS TO ASK THE CANDIDATES:

- *Do you support stopping the Medicare payment cuts to physicians?*

ABOUT THE ISSUE:

Washington bureaucrats announced that they plan to slash 2021 Medicare payments for plastic surgery E/M codes on average by 7 percent. What's even more troubling is that breast reconstruction codes will see reimbursement cuts up to 18 percent.

The Society has been working to educate members of Congress and political candidates about the need to stop the proposed cuts and to make positive Medicare payment updates.

Without immediate action, this proposal will drive more physicians to limit or stop their Medicare participation – jeopardizing access to care for our nation's most vulnerable patient populations.