

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
U.S. Senate  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0609

The Honorable John Barrasso, MD  
U.S. Senate  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-5005

Dear Senator Bennet and Senator Barrasso:

On behalf of the 23 undersigned organizations representing physicians and patients currently faced with the onset of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), we write in strong support of your legislation, the Immediate Relief for Rural Facilities and Providers Act and we would urge Congress to include this legislation in the COVID-19 relief packages.

Physician practices across the country are making the necessary sacrifices to treat patients who are potentially infected with COVID-19 without question. As the majority of elective cases are being canceled or rescheduled, case volumes will plummet. During this time, physicians are trying to keep their businesses afloat including paying their staff and office expenses. The Immediate Relief for Rural Facilities and Providers Act would alleviate this unexpected and extreme strain on physician practices.

At very few moments in history has it been more relevant than today that physicians put the focus of care entirely on the patient, while being assured that their businesses remain stable during this difficult time. We applaud your leadership on the Immediate Relief for Rural Facilities and Providers Act and look forward to working with you to see it enacted.

Sincerely,

American College of Surgeons  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American Pediatric Surgical Association  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons  
American Society of Anesthesiologists

American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
The American Society of Breast Surgeons  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons