

July 24, 2018

The Honorable Andy Barr  
United States Representative  
1427 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: H.R.1565 – the Saving Lives, Saving Costs Act of 2017**

Dear Representative Barr:

I am writing on behalf of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) in strong support of H.R.1565. ASPS is the largest association of plastic surgeons in the world, representing more than 7,000 members and 94 percent of all board-certified plastic surgeons in the United States. Our mission is to advance quality care for plastic surgery patients and promote public policy that protects patient safety. Our members are highly skilled surgeons who improve both the functional capacity and quality of life for patients, including treatment of congenital deformities, burn injuries, traumatic injuries, hand conditions, and cancer reconstruction.

We thank you for taking the time to meet with a group of ASPS members from Kentucky during our Advocacy Summit last month. Your championing of the *Saving Lives, Saving Costs Act*, which will improve the current medical liability climate in the United States, is invaluable. Medical liability reform will help achieve health system savings by reducing the incentives for defensive medicine, and it will also protect physicians from unaffordable liability premiums. Medical liability reform efforts in states such as California and Texas have shown that changes to the medical liability standards can help improve access to health care for patients, reduce runaway insurance premiums, and create a stable, predictable liability system.

We believe that the *Saving Lives, Saving Costs Act* can help foster that such a system nationwide.

ASPS appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on H.R.1565 and we look forward to working with you to advance this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Hermes, Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, at [phermes@plasticsurgery.org](mailto:phermes@plasticsurgery.org) or (847) 228-3331 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey E. Janis, MD, FACS  
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons