



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

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2026 Federal Legislative & Regulatory Priorities

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons advocates for policies that serve the interests of patients, advance the specialty, and support its members. ASPS promotes the highest quality patient care, and its member surgeons strive to improve functional capacity and quality of life for patients. To ensure that our healthcare system is effective and efficient, **ASPS will focus its federal advocacy efforts on:**

CORE PRIORITIES

- Preventing Medicare cuts coming through sequestration and negative conversion factor updates.
- Protecting the safety of plastic surgery patients by advancing policies that prevent non-surgeons from performing complex surgical procedures.
- Modernizing the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 to clarify that coverage guarantees apply to all types/techniques of post-breast cancer reconstruction, chest wall reconstruction, and custom fabricated prosthesis on an in-network basis.
- Advocating for stricter enforcement mechanisms that would further penalize health insurance companies for unlawfully delaying payments following the independent dispute resolution process as enacted in the *No Surprises Act*.

HIGH PRIORITIES

- Increasing patient access to plastic surgery services by advancing policies that reduce regulatory and administrative burdens that create barriers to patient care.
- Ensuring practitioners cannot advertise in a false or misleading way.
- Securing guaranteed coverage of congenital anomalies.
- Extending federal breast reconstruction coverage mandates to include non-cancer indications, like congenital anomalies or trauma, for reconstruction.

OTHER PRIORITIES

- Advocating for policies that increase the cap on Medicare-funded graduate medical education (GME) positions for specialists.
- Advancing out-of-network billing policies that inform patients about their coverage, maintaining an out-of-network option for elective care, fairly compensating physicians who inadvertently provide out-of-network care.
- Supporting policies that allow physicians to engage in collective bargaining.
- Increasing patient access to plastic surgery services by advancing policies that raise awareness of the scope of plastic surgery.
- Supporting and enhancing ASPS/PSF Registry and Research Initiatives.
- Supporting efforts to protect healthcare workers in all facilities and settings.
- Stopping predatory aggregation of negative online reviews for the purpose of pressuring physicians to pay a fee to have the reviews removed.

- Ensuring that facility fees for services provided at physician-owned and independent ambulatory surgical facilities increase at equal rates to those paid at hospital-owned ambulatory surgical facilities.
- Increasing patient access to plastic surgery services by advancing policies that reduce professional liability, with a focus on tort reform and capping non-economic damages.