

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