



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

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June 1, 2015

The Honorable Sam Johnson
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Johnson and Hinojosa,

On behalf of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), which represents over 18,000 board-certified orthopaedic surgeons, we would like to express our strong support for H.R. 2513, the Promoting Access, Competition and Equity Act of 2015.

As you know, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) included a provision that prohibits the construction of expansion of hospitals owned in part or in full by physicians. This limits access to quality healthcare, reduces provider options and increases costs.

H.R. 2513, the Promoting Access, Competition and Equity Act of 2015, introduced by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX) and Rep. Hinojosa (D-TX), would allow physician-owned hospitals to expand. The bill simply asks that the moratoria on expansion be suspended for approximately 3 years. The moratoria will not be re-imposed if the hospital has achieved a hospital star rating of 3 or more for 12 consecutive quarters. According to the Hospital Value Based Purchasing Program, physician-owned hospitals provide higher quality care than other hospitals. We believe this change would increase access to some of the best and most efficient hospitals in the country.

These hospitals provide some of the highest quality care in the country, and prohibition undermines the goal of PPACA which was to increase access to quality health care. Physician-owned hospitals are a vital part of our nation's healthcare system and have a proven track record of consistently ranking in the top in the nation in terms of patients outcomes.

Please feel free to contact Julia Williams, Senior Manager, AAOS Office of Government Relations, at (202) 548-4149 or JWilliams@aaos.org if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

David D. Teuscher, MD
President
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

cc: Thomas C. Barber, MD, Chair, AAOS Council on Advocacy
Karen L. Hackett, FACHE, CAE, AAOS Chief Executive Officer
William O. Shaffer, MD, AAOS Medical Director