



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

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ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

June 9, 2015

The Honorable John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

On behalf of the more than 18,000 members of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, I am pleased to support S. 1475, The Saving Lives, Saving Costs Act. This bill takes important steps to address our nation's broken liability system by stressing the importance of the practice of evidence-based health care while improving patient safety.

The Saving Lives, Saving Costs Act will allow physicians who have demonstrated use of appropriate eligible clinical practice guidelines in the course of treatment to have safe harbor from a lawsuit, should the patient sustain injury from such treatment. This will help to ensure that patients who require the services of an orthopaedic surgeon can receive the vital care they need in a safe and accessible environment. AAOS supports progress in medical liability reform that improves patient safety and reduces the cost of health care. While there is still a lot to do, this bill takes positive steps towards reducing frivolous lawsuits and insurance fraud, which is important to ensure physicians can continue to provide the highest quality patient care.

We believe in the principle of safe harbors as a mechanism to increase patient safety and allow for more stringent adherence to physician-developed clinical practice guidelines and appropriate use criteria. This bill will allow physicians to practice medicine with less fear of frivolous lawsuits.

We look forward to working with you on this and other matters in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Teuscher MD".

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