



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS®



THE PLASTIC SURGERY  
FOUNDATION™

Executive Office

444 East Algonquin Road • Arlington Heights, IL 60005-4664

847-228-9900 • Fax: 847-228-9131 • [www.plasticsurgery.org](http://www.plasticsurgery.org)

July 21, 2015

The Honorable Rob Portman  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S.1757– Accelerating Innovation in Medicine Act of 2015

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) is the world's largest association of plastic surgeons. Our over 7,000 members represent 94 percent of Board-Certified Plastic Surgeons in the United States. ASPS promotes not only the highest quality in patient care, but also in professional and ethical standards. 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 introducing the Accelerating Innovation in Medicine Act and for championing this important legislation which will provide seniors and the disabled with immediate access to new FDA-approved medical devices that are not yet covered under Medicare. This provision will also relieve some of the regulatory burden that can inhibit access to innovative new products, foster the collection of data that can support a future Medicare coverage decision, and save the federal government money.

The Accelerating Innovation in Medicine Act seeks to provide an option for medical device manufacturers to “opt-out” of the Medicare process for three years. This “opt-out” period allows manufacturers to collect the clinical evidence necessary for Medicare to make a coverage decision. This legislation would allow Medicare beneficiaries to access these new technologies, ensure they are informed of cost, and allow them to self-pay during this “opt-out” period. Allowing beneficiaries this option will ensure that clinical evaluation and data collection can take place in a more timely fashion, with the ultimate benefit that these innovative technologies will be available to all patients faster in the United States.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on S.1757, the Accelerating Innovation in Medicine Act, and looks forward to working with you to advance this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Hermes, Senior Manager of Advocacy and Government Affairs, with any questions – [Phermes@plasticsurgery.org](mailto:Phermes@plasticsurgery.org) or (847) 228-3331.

Sincerely,

Scot B. Glasberg, MD  
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons