



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS®



THE PLASTIC SURGERY  
FOUNDATION™

Executive Office

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June 1, 2015

The Honorable Leonard Lance  
2353 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
205 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
2266 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable David McKinley  
412 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
1114 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Yvette Clarke  
2351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger  
1221 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield  
2305 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

**RE: H.R.2540– Breast Cancer Patient Education 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.

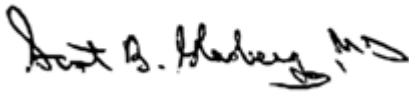
We thank you for introducing the Breast Cancer Patient Education Act and for championing this important legislation. ASPS strongly supports H.R.2540 and efforts to create greater awareness among breast cancer survivors about available medical options post-mastectomy. According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 231,840 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in 2015 among women in the United States. The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277) requires health plans that offer breast cancer coverage to also provide for breast reconstruction and prostheses. Breast reconstruction can be an important part of the recovery process, as it can impact the patient's psychological and sexual well-being.

Less than half of all women requiring a mastectomy are currently offered breast reconstruction

surgery and only one in five elect to undergo the procedure. While some eligible women with breast cancer undergo breast reconstruction, many women – particularly those of racial and ethnic minority groups – are not informed about their care options. This is particularly concerning as African-American women under the age of 40 have a greater incidence of breast cancer than Caucasian women of the same age. Furthermore, breast cancer is the most common cancer among Hispanic women.

We applaud your efforts to ensure that women facing a diagnosis of breast cancer are fully informed of their treatment options, including the possibility of breast reconstruction. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on H.R.2540, the *Breast Cancer Patient Education Act of 2015*, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scot B. Glasberg, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "S" at the beginning and a flourish at the end.

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