



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS®



THE PLASTIC SURGERY
FOUNDATION™

Executive Office

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April 14, 2015

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D.
1319 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R.1006 – Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act

Dear Representative Ruiz:

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) is the largest association of plastic surgeons in the world, representing more than 7,000 members and 94 percent of all American Board of Plastic Surgery board-certified plastic surgeons in the United States. Plastic surgeons provide highly skilled surgical services that improve both the functional capacity and quality of life of patients. These services include the treatment of congenital deformities, burn injuries, traumatic injuries, hand conditions, and cancer. ASPS promotes the highest quality patient care, professional and ethical standards, and supports the education, research, and public service activities of plastic surgeons. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on our support for your legislation, H.R.1006, the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons strongly supports the expansion of funding to improve physician training. There has never been such a need to support future physicians, as an unprecedented number of Americans have access to health services through the Affordable Care Act, as more than 100,000 seniors become eligible for Medicare every day, and as the number of American medical school graduates is poised to reach record numbers.

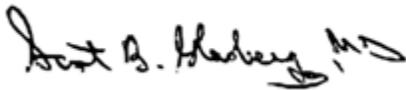
According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, an overall shortage of 91,000 physicians will occur by 2020. By 2025, the shortage is expected to reach 130,000. One-half of this shortage will come from specialty physicians, including physicians in the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery. A recent American College of Surgeons Health Policy Research Institute study shows an average of two plastic surgeons per 100,000 individuals in the United States. Plastic surgeons play an integral role in the treatment of breast cancer, which is the second leading cause of death in women. It is estimated that over 230,000 new cases will be identified each year.

Several studies have found a direct correlation between the rates of women in a given geographic location who receive breast reconstruction and the number of plastic surgeons practicing in that location. Further, the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 mandates that reconstructive procedures be offered, yet shortages of qualified surgeons have and will

continue to limit availability and proper care for the patient. As such, your legislation promises to help reduce those geographic disparities and meet the mandated goal of ensuring access to cancer-related breast reconstruction.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future 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 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 initial "S" and a stylized "G".

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