

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS

## 2015-16 Federal Policy Priorities

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The American Society of Plastic Surgeons advocates for policies that serve the interests of patients, advance the specialty, and support its members. ASPS promotes the highest quality patient care, and its member surgeons strive to improve functional capacity and quality of life for patients. To ensure that our health care system is effective and efficient, **ASPS will focus its federal advocacy efforts on:**

### ISSUES AFFECTING PLASTIC SURGERY

- **Increasing patient access to plastic surgery services by advancing policies that**
  - inform women that federal law requires health plans that cover breast cancer treatment to also cover breast reconstruction and prostheses.
  - require insurance coverage for treatment of children's deformities and disfigurement.
  - provide Medicare beneficiaries the choice to privately contract with physicians.
  - increase the cap on Medicare-funded graduate medical education (GME) positions and increase funding for those additional residency slots.
  - raise awareness of the scope of plastic surgery.
- **Protecting the safety of plastic surgery patients by advancing policies that**
  - prevent non-surgeons from performing complex surgical procedures.
  - ensure practitioners cannot advertise in a false or misleading way.
  - support and enhance ASPS research initiatives, such as TOPS, PROFILE, GRAFT, SPAR, VTEPS, FACE-Q, BREAST-Q, etc.

### ISSUES AFFECTING MEDICINE IN GENERAL

- **Ensuring patient access to all medical specialties by advancing policies that**
  - shape the implementation of the new federal physician reimbursement system (enacted to replace SGR) so that it is fair to all specialties and maintains a viable fee-for-service option.
  - repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board and any other mechanism that erodes transparency and fairness in Medicare payment policy development.
- **Preserving medicine as a desirable professional pursuit by advancing policies that**
  - maintain the financial viability of physician practices by addressing the steep, overlapping payment adjustments created by recent federal policies like the budget sequester, Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, Physician Quality Reporting System, or Value-Based Modifier.
  - reduce professional liability, with a focus on tort reform and capping non-economic damages.
  - allow physicians to engage in collective bargaining.
  - mitigate the explosion of new regulatory compliance requirements spurred by health care reform.