March 19, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives H-232 The Capitol Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the more than 240,000 surgeons and anesthesiologists we represent and the millions of surgical patients we treat each year, the undersigned organizations are committed to meaningful health reform that will make affordable, quality health care more accessible to all Americans. Our organizations have consistently stated that the health care reform package must be built on a solid foundation and in the best interest of our patients. Unfortunately, the Senate-passed *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009* (PPACA, H.R. 3590) fails to build such a foundation, and it falls short when considering the needs of our patients. As a result, we are opposed to H.R. 3590.

Over the past year and a half, we have regularly communicated with Congress regarding our concerns such as the creation of the unelected, unaccountable Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), the failure to repeal the sustainable growth rate (SGR) and implement a new Medicare payment system, and other provisions in H.R. 3590. Following the release of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009* last November, our organizations were left with no choice but to oppose H.R. 3590, and we clearly conveyed our disappointment to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in December. Our opposition was also shared with House leadership and the House Committees of jurisdiction. Likewise, our organizations sent a February 19 letter to the President expressing our continued concerns with H.R. 3590. Finally, this letter to the President was also followed by a March 12 letter to you outlining our concerns and the reasons for our opposition to H.R. 3590. In spite of our considerable effort to share our concerns, our fundamental concerns remain unaddressed.

The surgical coalition remains committed to the passage of meaningful and comprehensive health reform that preserves and improve Americans' ability to access high quality surgical care and health care services. It is this commitment that requires the surgical coalition to oppose a bill that would undermine quality and threaten patient access to surgical care.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Surgeons

American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Urological Association
American Society of Breast Surgeons
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons
American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society of Surgical Oncology