March 25, 2019

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD U.S. House of Representatives 1727 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Scott Peters U.S. House of Representatives 2338 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD, FACS U.S. House of Representatives 2313 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin U.S. House of Representatives 2421 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Bera, Bucshon, Peters, and Mullin:

On behalf of the more than 80,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I write in support of the *Ensuring Access to General Surgery Act*, H.R.

Increasing evidence indicates there is a current and growing shortage of surgeons available to serve our nation's population. This shortage of general surgeons is a critical component of the overall crisis in health care workforce. The ACS believes that Congress should recognize that only surgeons are uniquely trained and qualified to provide certain necessary, lifesaving procedures and are therefore an essential

o quality surgical care.

The ACS strongly supports the *Ensuring Access to General Surgery Act* and believes that determining what constitutes and defines a surgical shortage area is an important



first step in ensuring access to high quality surgical care. Thank you for your efforts and continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS Executive Director



