



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Inspiring Quality:
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes

100+ years

Chicago Headquarters
633 N. Saint Clair Street
Chicago, IL 60611-3295
Voice: 312-202-5000
Fax: 312-202-5001
E-mail: postmaster@facs.org

Washington Office
20 F Street, NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20001
Voice: 202-337-2701
Fax: 202-337-4271
E-mail: djohnson@facs.org
facs.org

OFFICERS

President

J. Wayne Meredith, MD, FACS, MCCM
Winston-Salem, NC

Immediate Past-President

Valerie W. Rusch, MD, FACS
New York, NY

President-Elect

Julie A. Freischlag, MD, FACS
Winston-Salem, NC

First Vice-President

H. Randolph Bailey, MD, FACS, FASCRS
Houston, TX

First Vice-President-Elect

Quan-Yang Duh, MD, FACS
San Francisco, CA

Second Vice-President

Lisa A. Newman, MD, MPH, FACS, FASCO
New York, NY

Second Vice-President-Elect

Richard A. Lynn, MD, FACS
Palm Beach, FL

Secretary

Tyler G. Hughes, MD, FACS
Salina, KS

Treasurer

Don K. Nakayama, MD, MBA, FACS
Chapel Hill, NC

Executive Director

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Chicago, IL

Chief Financial Officer

Gay L. Vincent, CPA
Chicago, IL

BOARD OF REGENTS

Chair

L. Scott Levin, MD, FACS
Philadelphia, PA

Vice-Chair

Steven D. Wexner, MD, PhD(Hon), FACS,
FRCSEng, FRCSEd, FRCSE(Hon), FRCSEd(Hon)
Weston, FL

Anthony Atala, MD, FACS
Winston-Salem, NC

John L. D. Atkinson, MD, FACS
Rochester, MN

Francoise P. Chagnon, MD, FACS, FRCSC
Montreal, QC

Annesley (AJ) W. Copeland, MD, FACS
Washington, DC

James C. Denny III, MD, FACS
Alexandria, VA

Timothy J. Eberlein, MD, FACS
Saint Louis, MO

Diana L. Farmer, MD, FACS, FRCS
Sacramento, CA

Henri R. Ford, MD, FACS
Miami, FL

James W. Gigantelli, MD, FACS
Huntington, WV

Sean C. Grondin, MD, MPH, FACS, FRCSC
Calgary, AB

Enrique Hernandez, MD, FACS
Philadelphia, PA

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS
New York, NY

Lena M. Napolitano, MD, FACS
Ann Arbor, MI

Linda G. Phillips, MD, FACS
Galveston, TX

Kenneth W. Sharp, MD, FACS
Nashville, TN

Anton N. Sidawy, MD, FACS
Washington, DC

Steven C. Stain, MD, FACS
Albany, NY

Beth H. Sutton, MD, FACS
Wichita Falls, TX

Gary L. Timmerman, MD, FACS
Sioux Falls, SD

David J. Welsh, MD, MBA, FACS
Batesville, IN

Douglas E. Wood, MD, FACS
Seattle, WA

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Chair

Ronald J. Weigel, MD, PhD, FACS
Iowa City, IA

Vice-Chair

Nancy Lynn Gantt, MD, FACS
Youngstown, OH

Secretary

Andre R. Campbell, MD, FACS
San Francisco, CA

October 7, 2021

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD
U.S. Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Angus King
U.S. Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cassidy and King:

On behalf of the more than 82,000 members of the American College of Surgeons, I would like to express our support for the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act (S. 2941), legislation that would ensure disaster victims' access to medically necessary care in a federally declared emergency.

Rapid medical response in a disaster can greatly decrease loss of life and improve outcomes for patients who desperately need assistance. Surgeons with training in trauma and critical care, play a major role in the health care community's response to most disaster situations.

Due to inconsistent state laws and lack of federal policy, it is often unclear whether protections against unnecessary lawsuits exist for medical volunteers who cross state lines. Unfortunately, this uncertainty disincentives physicians from volunteering and in some cases, trained and qualified professionals have been turned away.

S. 2941 would provide volunteer health professionals with the same level of civil immunity they receive in their home state when providing care in a federally declared emergency. Removing barriers that prohibit licensed surgeons and other qualified physicians from voluntarily administering medically necessary care during disasters will ensure access to high-quality surgical services in the event of a crisis.

Thank you for your efforts and leadership on this issue; ACS strongly supports the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director