



October 2, 2023

The Honorable Cory Booker
U.S. Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

On behalf of the more than 88,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I would like to express our strong support for the *Colorectal Cancer Payment Fairness Act* (S. 1894). This important legislation would build on the previously enacted *Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act* and require Medicare to offer complete coverage for colorectal cancer treatments patients receive during routine cancer screenings by the end of 2023.

According to the National Cancer Institute, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer related death, when the data for men and women are combined. This statistic is especially troubling since colorectal cancer is largely preventable thanks to effective screening methods. The *Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act*, which was signed into law in 2020, required Medicare to increase coverage of procedures to remove polyps during routine colorectal cancer screenings. Before the bill became law, Medicare provided complete coverage of the screenings, but not the removal of the polyps, and patients could face surprise charges if polyps were removed during the procedure. However, coverage is currently set to phase in through 2030.

We urge Congress to pass the *Colorectal Cancer Payment Fairness Act* to ensure full coverage for these procedures sooner. By removing this financial barrier, Congress would help increase screening rates and reduce the incidence of colorectal cancer. Thank you for your efforts and leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Turner", written over a horizontal line.

Patricia L. Turner, MD, MBA, FACS
Executive Director & CEO

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