



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

July 11, 2022

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, M.D.
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier, M.D.
1123 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Bucshon and Dr. Schrier,

On behalf of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), I thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R 5394, the Meaningful Access to Federal Health Plan Claims Data Act of 2021. The AAOS encourages and supports greater interoperability of clinician-led clinical data registries and the data collected and maintained by federal health agencies to improve quality of care through analysis of outcomes and claims data.

Clinician-led data registries, like those operated by AAOS, are major sources of evidence that are positioned to drive health system innovation and quality improvement forward. With better access to federal health agencies' data, such as those maintained by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), clinical data registries can facilitate research advancement, quality improvement efforts, and great care coordination.

Several regulatory barriers exist that restrict the use of registry data to incredibly narrow and singular queries that can prevent physicians from "seeing the forest from the trees." For example, sets of data may be used for quality improvement in procedures, but registries cannot use that same data to fully understand the impact of orthopaedic interventions once a patient has left their care. Multiple uses of registry data require additional applications with CMS as well as additional fees that create extraneous time and cost burden mitigating meaningful access to clinical data.

Effective interoperability of clinician-led clinical data registries with Medicare claims data is necessary to build evidence-based models of value-based care to benefit patients. Being able to link outcomes data easily and cost-effectively with Medicare claims data would help define the value of new medical technologies and therapies in providing the most effective and efficient care for patients.

I thank you for your leadership and introduction of H.R. 5394 to demonstrate the pivotal role clinician-led clinical data registry can have to creating a safer, more effective health care delivery system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F H Savoie MD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Felix H. Savoie, III, MD, FAAOS

AAOS President

cc: Kevin J. Bozic, MD, MBA, FAAOS, AAOS First Vice-President

Paul Tornetta, III, MD, FAAOS, AAOS Second Vice President

Thomas E. Arend, Jr., Esq., CAE, AAOS CEO

Graham Newson, AAOS Vice President, Office of Government Relations