



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

January 13, 2016

The Honorable Peter Roskam
United States House of Representatives
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Roskam,

On behalf of over 18,000 board-certified orthopaedic surgeons, the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) would like to express its support for H.R. 3220, the Medicare Common Access Card Act of 2015. This legislation would implement a smart card pilot program in three geographic areas that are considered high risk for Medicare abuse.

Medicare fraud, waste and abuse are estimated by the Department of Justice to cost American taxpayers \$60 billion per year. This innovative effort to eliminate waste and abuse in the Medicare system has tremendous potential. By verifying the identity of Medicare beneficiaries, the smart card will protect the Medicare program and save taxpayers money. The smart card will improve the accuracy of the Medicare billing system, increase the quality of care, and reduce the potential for identity theft. It is estimated that implementation of the smart card could result in a cost saving of well over \$30 billion.

The AAOS commends you for introducing this important piece of legislation, which will reduce health care costs. Please feel free to contact Catherine Boudreaux, AAOS Senior Manager of Government Affairs at (202) 548-4140 or boudreaux@AAOS.org if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Teuscher MD".

David D. Teuscher, MD
President
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons