

March 13, 2015

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General of the United States  
Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro,

The undersigned organizations are writing to urge you appoint a surgeon to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) this year. As you may be aware, there are currently no surgeons serving on this important Commission. We are concerned that without surgical representation, MedPAC and Congress are missing a unique perspective during the development of policies that impact access to quality care.

MedPAC's biannual reports, and the many other valued avenues in which the Commission provides meaningful commentary, would benefit from the clinical, academic, and health policy experience of a surgeon. In addition, surgeons are directly affected by MedPAC recommendations and, perhaps more importantly, we believe that surgeons may hold the key to improving upon health care delivery and payment reform. For these reasons, we are pleased to support the selection of a surgeon whose clinical expertise and comprehensive understanding of the health care system, is an ideal combination for a MedPAC candidate.

An appointment of a candidate from the surgical community would expand MedPAC's diversity of thought, and ensure recommendations from such a highly respected independent congressional agency are inclusive of another critical viewpoint in health care.

Respectfully,

American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Surgeons  
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics  
American Society for Dermatological Surgery Association  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
American Society for Mohs Surgery  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society of Breast Surgeons  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

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American Urological Association  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons