

“ENSURING ACCESS TO AMERICA’S ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICES”

COSPONSOR THE SOLIS-BURGESS “ACCESS TO AMERICA’S ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICES ACT OF 2008” (H.R. 6478)

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS

Musculoskeletal diseases and conditions are the leading cause of disability in the United States and account for **more than one-half** of all chronic conditions in people over 50 years of age in developed countries.

More than 1 in 4 Americans has a musculoskeletal condition requiring medical attention.

Annual direct and indirect costs for bone and joint health are **\$849 billion**.

Musculoskeletal conditions are **the greatest cause** of total lost work days and medical bed days in the United States.

The 2004 Surgeon General’s report on Bone Health and Osteoporosis concluded that **there is a lack of awareness of bone disease** among both the public and health care professionals.

TRAUMA AND REHABILITATION

The AAOS Act of 2008 requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to issue a report to Congress on current government musculoskeletal trauma research initiatives and the coordination of musculoskeletal trauma research throughout government agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and the Department of Defense.

H.R. 6478 also requires the Secretary to issue a report to Congress on the orthopaedic implications of model trauma networks, trauma rehabilitation, and integration into the community, paying particular attention to access to specialty care for patients with orthopaedic-related conditions, outcomes for trauma victims, and access to post-acute rehabilitative services.

MUSCULOSKELETAL RESEARCH

The AAOS Act of 2008 requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish regulations to ensure an accurate accounting of research on musculoskeletal diseases and conditions at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

This legislation also takes several steps to improve the number of young investigators at the National Institutes of Health (NIH); including collecting information on the number and racial/ethnic data of existing young investigators throughout the Institutes at present, and tracking the number of young investigators and federal grants awarded to these investigators over the next 5 years.

H.R. 6478 also requires the NIH Director to present a report to Congress on the progress of NIH inclusion of young investigators in research initiatives and additional resources that may be necessary to meet those goals, including an evaluation of the NIH’s efforts to promote the inclusion of underrepresented minorities.

WOMEN’S HEALTH

The AAOS Act of 2008 requests the Office on Women’s Health, through funding from the Secretary’s General Department Management budget to promote outreach to adolescent girls through a social marketing campaign, “Powerful Bones, Powerful Girls,” through 2012.

AGING AND SENIORS

The AAOS Act of 2008 requires the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, with input from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, to develop a standard, cost-effective modality for measuring bone mass and intervals for follow-up screening based on existing measurement tools.

This legislation also requires the Secretary to require the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to publish the Longitudinal Study on Aging (LSOA) III/Supplemental on Aging (SOA) III within 2 years of enactment. This report shall be updated within five years after enactment.

In addition, H.R. 6478 requests the Administration on Aging (AoA) and the CDC to continue providing assistance to state health agencies interested in establishing or expanding current health and aging activities through the State-Based Examples of Network Innovation, Opportunity, and Replication (SENIOR) Grants program or similar programs for 5 years.

The Secretary is also required to conduct and support a sustained national musculoskeletal disease public awareness and health professional education campaign, with an emphasis on reaching underserved populations.

PEDIATRIC ORTHOPAEDICS

The AAOS Act of 2008 requires the Office of the Surgeon General to issue a report on childhood musculoskeletal diseases within two years. It also requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to issue a report to Congress on Medicaid and SCHIP beneficiary access to orthopaedic services with attention to disproportionate impact of access barriers on children.

The Department of Education is also requested to coordinate efforts between itself, the Department of Transportation and Public Safety, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports on education campaigns about healthy lifestyles and practices.

ORTHOPAEDIC WORKFORCE AND TRAINING

The AAOS Act of 2008 requests the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to conduct a study on graduate medical education and the impact of funding on the availability of specialty physicians.

QUALITY AND SAFETY

The AAOS Act of 2008 reauthorizes the Transplantation Transmission Sentinel Network administered by the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) through a grant allocated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a period of five years.

It also amends the Public Health Services Act to require all companies engaged in the manufacture of human, cellular, tissue or tissue-based products to become accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation agency.

H.R. 6478 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a report to Congress making recommendations on the appropriateness of establishing a national joint replacement registry and changes to the Medicare claims forms to allow the collection of data on laterality of the joint, re-operation, and uniform identifiers, including the device lot number and catalog number.

HEALTHY AMERICA

In an effort to prevent extremity injuries resulting from vehicular crashes, the AAOS Act of 2008 requests that the Department of Health and Human Services conduct studies on the causes of severe trauma to extremities resulting from vehicular crashes.

Additionally, the legislation requires the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) to promote a coordinated effort between the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in order to collect information about workplace injuries pertaining to musculoskeletal conditions and treatments.