



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

June 7, 2017

The Honorable Patrick Meehan  
2305 Rayburn  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Larson  
1501 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20511

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
2266 Rayburn  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Linda Sanchez  
2329 Rayburn  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Meehan, Larson, Blackburn and Sanchez,

On behalf of over 18,000 board-certified orthopaedic surgeons, the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the undersigned orthopaedic specialty societies would like to commend you for introducing the “Increasing Access to Osteoporosis Testing for Medicare Beneficiaries Act of 2017.” This important legislation will help ensure that patients have access to dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) testing by creating a reimbursement rate floor for a DXA test administered in a doctor’s office. DXA is critical first test in quantifying the severity of osteoporosis.

Since 2007, Medicare has significantly cut the funding for DXA testing in physician’s offices leading to a sharp decline in the number of people tested, diagnosed and treated. The Medicare reimbursement rate for the DXA test administered in a doctor’s office has declined more than threefold from \$140 in 2007 to only \$41 in 2017. Therefore, fewer physicians are offering this service resulting in increased hip fractures. Osteoporosis and its related bone fractures account for approximately 300,000 hip fractures hospitalizations. Medicare beneficiaries, in particular, need access to bone density screening services.

Again, the AAOS strongly supports the efforts you’ve put forth in this legislation and your ongoing commitment to the issue of bone health. Please feel free to contact Julie Williams, AAOS Senior Manager of Government Relations ([jwilliams@aaos.org](mailto:jwilliams@aaos.org)), if you have any questions or if the AAOS can serve as a resource to you.

Sincerely,

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons  
American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society  
American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine

American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons  
Arthroscopy Association of North America  
Cervical Spine Research Society  
J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society  
Musculoskeletal Infection Society  
Musculoskeletal Tumor Society  
North American Spine Society  
Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Association  
Orthopaedic Trauma Association  
Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Society  
Scoliosis Research Society  
The Hip Society  
The Knee Society