Richmond, March 28, 2017

TO
SSAT Board of Trustees

RE: 2016 ACS/SSAT Health Policy and Management Scholarship Report

Dear members of SSAT Board of Trustees:

I want to again thank the ACS and SSAT for providing me the opportunity to attend the weeklong Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management at Brandeis University. This was an extremely valuable week and allowed for greater insight into topics of Leadership, Healthy Policy and Economics, Financial Literacy, and Conflict Negotiation.

The knowledge gained during the course and continuing studies have allowed me to better engage with assisting Health policy efforts with the SSAT, ACS and with the Virginia Chapter of the ASMBS/Virginia Bariatric Society (VBS).

- At SSAT I have joined the Public Policy & Advocacy Committee as a member and activities have included:
  - draft and organize the Health Policy Session Panel at DDW on May 8, 2017, in Chicago;
  - Lead one Advocacy related blog at the SSAT.com Advocacy Corner;
  - Lead the DC, Maryland, and Virginia states SSAT grassroots network effort “50 States/50 Surgeon Advocates”;
  - Participate in the selection of the 2018 Brandeis scholarship recipient;
- At ACS I joined the Health Policy Advisory Council as a Councilors and responsibilities include: develop expertise on regulatory and health care policy issues, promote grassroots and political advocacy among their Chapter members, and communicate feedback on legislative and regulatory policy from surgeons in their Chapters back to the Division of Advocacy and Health Policy (DAHP). State level advocacy activities are described below.
At the Virginia Chapter of the ASMBS/Virginia Bariatric Society (VBS), which I am the Vice-President and President-Elect. Activities have included:

- Advocacy and Health Policy efforts to remove state-wide barriers for patients to have access to Bariatric Surgery, specifically multiple meetings and active negotiations with the Virginia House of Delegate Representatives and the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management (VA DHRM) to introduce legislation to:
  - Remove a state-wide 12-month Insurance Mandate Weight Loss Requirement that is not supported by medical evidence and has not been shown to be effective for preoperative weight loss before bariatric surgery or to provide any benefit for bariatric outcomes.
  - Create a detailed risk-adjusted with outlier provision bundled payment option for bariatric surgery;
- Development and implementation of the state-wide Virginia Bariatric Surgery Quality Improvement Collaborative (VBSQiC); a regional, voluntary collaborative, founded by the Virginia Bariatric Society (VBS) and its membership in collaboration with the American College of Surgeon (ACS) Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (“MBSAQIP”). The VBSQiC aims at improving the quality of care for patients undergoing bariatric surgery in Virginia. The Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) supported by the VCU Center for Clinical and Translational Research and REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) will serve as the Coordinating Center for VBSQiC, and all hospitals that are an ACS MBSAQiP approved center are eligible to participate in the VBSQiC.

Again I thank the ACS and SSAT for the opportunity and vouch to continue to use the knowledge acquired as to assist to in Health Policy and Advocacy efforts at state and nation level.

Yours sincerely,

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