

February 27, 2015

The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Burgess and DeFazio:

The undersigned organizations write to thank you for introducing The Protect Continuing Physician Education and Patient Care Act, H.R. 293, and to express our support for the provision exempting medical textbooks and peer-reviewed journals from reporting requirements under the Sunshine Act.

The facts are straightforward: better informed physicians provide better care to patients. Making sure that medical professionals have access to the highest quality information should be a goal of public policy, and H.R. 293 does just that. Your legislation ensures that physicians' access to the highest quality publications in the world will remain unobstructed. Medical textbooks, consults, conference reports, journal articles and their reprints are written and published for the purpose of building upon and improving clinical understanding. These universally respected publications not only meet the rigorous standards of the highest quality peer-review and editing, but also provide impartial and independent information that provides direct benefit to patients through improved care.

Physicians routinely rank among the most respected professionals in the United States because of their understanding of the ever-changing science of medicine. That respect is built upon patients' trust that their healthcare professionals remain well-informed on the latest breakthroughs in health science. Maintaining an open channel for the flow of educational information is paramount to ensuring that patients continue to be cared for by informed physicians. Provision of these materials accrues directly to the benefit of patients and to improved healthcare for all Americans.

On behalf of countless medical researchers, physicians, and the more than 38,000 Americans employed in scholarly publishing, we thank you for introducing this important legislation which will remove barriers to ensuring that physicians are able to provide the best possible care to their patients through access to the most current medical information.

Sincerely,

The following undersigned organizations

ACSESS (Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies)

Alpha Med Press

American Anthropological Association

American Academy of Forensic Sciences

American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy

American Academy of Pain Medicine

American Association for Dental Research

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Association of Anatomists

American Association of Blood Banks

American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine

American Chemical Society

American College of Chest Physicians

American College of Clinical Pharmacology

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American Geriatrics Society

American Mathematical Society

American Psychiatric Association Publishing

American Physiological Society

American Society for Bone and Mineral Research

American Society for Indexing

American Society for Investigative Pathology

American Society for Laser Medicine & Surgery
American Society for Microbiologists
American Society for Preventative Cardiology
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Hypertension
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Society of Transplantation
American Thoracic Society
Association for Molecular Pathology
Association of American Publishers/Professional & Scholarly Publishing
Brill
Coalition for Healthcare Communication
College of Rheumatology
Content Ed Net
Crop Science Society of America
Davies Publishing
Elsevier
The Endocrine Society
F.A. Davis Company
Gerodontology Association
Heart Failure Society of America
Heart Rhythm Society
Human Factors & Ergonomics Society
International Continence Society
International Forum of Allergy & Rhinology
International League Against Epilepsy
International Publications Media Group
International Parkinson & Movement Disorder Society (MDS)
International Society for Sexual Medicine
International Society of Pediatric Oncology
International Society on Thrombosis & Haemostasis
John Wiley & Sons

McGraw-Hill Education
National Kidney Foundation
National Lipid Association
New England Journal of Medicine
New York Academy of Sciences
Northwest Graphics Inc.
Oxford University Press
Peripheral Nerve Society
SAGE Publications
Silverchair Information Systems
Slack Inc.
Society for Pediatric Dermatology
Society for the Study of Reproduction
Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography
Society of Hospital Medicine
Soil Science Society of America
Springer Publishing Company
Taylor & Francis
Thieme Publishers
The Triological Society
Wolters Kluwer