



November 28, 2016

Senator Lamar Alexander
The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray
The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of more than 140 publishers devoted to providing access to the latest research and discoveries, I am writing to express our strong support for Section 4009 of the 21st Century Cures Act. This provision exempts medical textbooks and peer-reviewed journals from burdensome CMS reporting requirements that have diminished the ability of physicians to consult the highest quality medical information.

Section 4009 will improve patient care by ensuring physicians have the latest research at their fingertips. While we support the transparency goals of the Sunshine Act, we believe that Section 4009 reflects the intent of Congress in providing an educational exclusion to the reporting requirement so that doctors can readily access materials that keep them informed and enable them to provide better care to their patients.

Together with a wide range of organizations committed to ensuring the availability of peer-reviewed scholarly research, AAP-PSP sent a letter earlier this year to Senator Barrasso in support of S. 2978, the Protect Continuing Physician Education and Patient Care Act, which is identical to the language in Section 4009. I have attached a copy of this letter to indicate the breadth of support for these provisions.

On behalf of countless medical researchers, physicians, and the more than 38,000 Americans employed in scholarly publishing, we applaud Dr. Barrasso and the HELP Committee for working to remove barriers that impede physician access to the most current medical information. Your legislation will ensure that physicians are able to provide the best possible care to their patients through access to the highest quality publications in the world.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Tagler".

John Tagler
Vice President and Executive Director
Professional and Scholarly Publishing
Association of American Publishers, Inc.
jtagler@publishers.org
212 255-1407

cc: Senator John Barrasso

June 7, 2016

Senator John Barrasso
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

The undersigned organizations write to thank you for introducing The Protect Continuing Physician Education and Patient Care Act, S. 2978, 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 S. 2978 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 Psychological Association

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
BMJ Publishing Group, Inc
Coalition for Healthcare Communication
College of Rheumatology
Content Ed Net
Copyright Clearance Center
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