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Nation's ENT Doctors Join Physician Coalition in National Effort to Advocate for Appropriate Healthcare Reform

Alexandria, Va. – Today the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) joined 12 other physicians' associations, representing the spectrum of medicine, in a new coalition, Physicians United for Patients. The coalition urges lawmakers to vote against the current healthcare reform bill under consideration in the United States Senate.

“Healthcare is a personal issue, where physicians and patients work together to make critical health decisions,” said AAO-HNS President Ronald B. Kupper-Smith, MD. “Unfortunately, the Senate healthcare reform bill, in its current form, will threaten the physician-patient relationship and insert federal bureaucracies and red tape into some of the most personal aspects of people’s lives.”

To inform the public of the bill’s flaws, Physicians United for Patients has launched a multi-state outreach campaign in opposition to H.R. 3590, the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.” With a final vote nearing, the coalition is targeting key states, urging Senators to vote against a healthcare bill that undermines the physician-patient relationship and impedes access and choice.

“Although the AAO-HNS is opposed to the ‘Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act’ as it is currently written, we remain committed to the passage of meaningful and comprehensive healthcare reform,” said Dr. Kupper-Smith.

Member organizations of Physicians United for Patients include the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics, American Society of Breast Surgeons, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, Arthroscopy Association of North America, Congress of Neurological Surgeons, National Association of Spine Specialists, Orthopaedic Trauma Association, and the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America.

Radio and print ads are slated to run in Arkansas, Nebraska, Connecticut, and Maine. For more information and to view the ads, visit www.PhysiciansUnitedForPatients.org.

For more information on AAO-HNS efforts regarding healthcare reform, visit www.entnet.org/hcr.

About the AAO-HNS

The American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (www.entnet.org), one of the oldest medical associations in the nation, represents nearly 12,000 physicians and allied health professionals who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the ears, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck. The Academy serves its members by facilitating the advancement of the science and art of medicine related to otolaryngology and by representing the specialty in governmental and socioeconomic issues. The organization's vision: "Empowering otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons to deliver the best patient care."