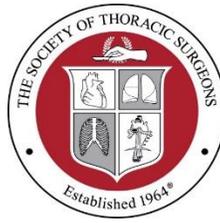


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March 7, 2024

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cassidy and Cantwell,

On behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), I would like to thank you for introducing the No Fees for EFTs Act. Founded in 1964, STS is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,700 surgeons, researchers, and allied healthcare professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lungs, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest.

We deeply appreciate your leadership on this legislation that represents a crucial step towards addressing the burdensome fees imposed by commercial health insurers on electronic funds transfer (EFT) payments to healthcare providers.

In recent years, the widespread adoption of EFT payments has significantly streamlined financial transactions within the healthcare industry. However, the imposition of percentage-based fees by commercial health insurers has emerged as a significant obstacle, hindering the efficiency of these transactions. STS has major concerns over how this impacts physician practice sustainability when practices are already stretched thin financially by the growing costs of practicing medicine without an inflationary update to Medicare payments.

This legislation supports providers by prohibiting commercial health insurers from imposing fees on EFT payments made to healthcare providers. Banning unreasonable and unnecessary fees on EFT payments will reduce the financial burden on healthcare providers, allowing them to allocate resources more efficiently towards patient care, medical advancements, and professional development.

Thank you once again for your commitment to policies that help address the financial hurdles placed on physician practices. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in this endeavor. Please contact Molly Peltzman, Associate Director of Health Policy, at [mpeltzman@sts.org](mailto:mpeltzman@sts.org), or Derek Brandt, Vice President of Government Affairs, at [dbrandt@sts.org](mailto:dbrandt@sts.org), should you need additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Romano, MD, MS  
President