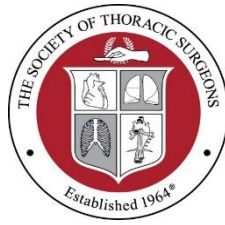


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July 3, 2019

Sent via email

The Honorable Diana DeGette
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Beyer
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Extension Act of 2019

Dear Congresswoman DeGette and Congressman Beyer,

On behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), I am pleased to write in support of H.R.3030, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Extension Act of 2019, which would extend appropriations and transfers to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund (PCORTF) and to extend certain health insurance fees for such transfers. Founded in 1964, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,600 surgeons, researchers, and allied health care 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. The mission of the Society is to enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality patient care through education, research, and advocacy.

STS strongly supports reauthorization of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and extending appropriations for the PCORTF. PCORI is the only organization dedicated to both evidence-based and patient-centered research to improve care. Since inception, PCORI has awarded more than \$2.4 billion in grants to more than 600 research-related projects across the United States. Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death in the United States – causing 800,000 deaths annuallyⁱ. Over \$320 billion in healthcare costs and lost productivity is attributable to cardiovascular disease. PCORI has funded 68 comparative clinical effective research studies related to cardiovascular disease, vascular disease, hypertension and congestive heart failure totaling \$301 million.

One study informed patients and providers of outcomes between a transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and surgical aortic valve replacement (SAVR).ⁱⁱ The study showed that that patients who received TAVR were discharged home more quickly rather than having longer hospital stay or being discharged to other facilities. PCORI research is intended to provide information on patients' priorities, such being discharged to return home sooner, to better inform shared decision-making. No other government research entity is driven by this singular patient-focus which is why PCORI must be reauthorized.

STS remains fully committed to improving the quality, safety, and efficiency of care for all patients. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Please contact Courtney Yohe Savage, STS Director of Government Relations, at cyohe@sts.org or 202-787-1230 should you need additional information or clarification. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert S.D. Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Robert S.D. Higgins, MD
President

ⁱ <https://www.pcori.org/research-results/topics/cardiovascular-disease>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.pcori.org/research-in-action/less-invasive-way-replace-heart-valve-newer-better>