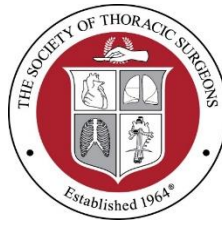


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December 16, 2019

*Sent via email*

The Honorable John Lewis  
343 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adrian Smith  
502 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: H.R.3911, Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2019**

Dear Congressman Lewis and Congressman Smith,

On behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), I would like to thank you for introducing H.R.3911, Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Act of 2019, which would allow advanced practice providers (APPs) to begin supervising patients' day-to-day cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation care beginning in January 2020, earlier than current statute.

Founded in 1964, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,300 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.

This bill would expand and expedite access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program. Not all patients can go straight home after leaving the hospital and some require rehabilitation.<sup>i</sup> These programs are of paramount importance for many patients trying to return to their everyday lifestyle after surgery.<sup>ii</sup>

Thank you for your dedication to ensuring the best possible outcomes for cardiothoracic surgery patients. Please contact Courtney Yohe Savage, STS Director of Government Relations, at [cyohe@sts.org](mailto:cyohe@sts.org) or 202-787-1230 should you need additional information or clarification. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Robert S.D. Higgins, MD  
President

<sup>i</sup> <https://ctsurgerypatients.org/pre-post-operative-care/after-heart-surgery>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.sts.org/sites/default/files/whattoexpect.pdf>