



**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
OTOLARYNGOLOGY—
HEAD AND NECK SURGERY**

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

December 2, 2009

**Nation's ENTs Oppose "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act"
AAO-HNS, Surgical Coalition Warn of Limits to Access and Quality of Care in Senate Healthcare Reform Bill**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. -The American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS), as part of a coalition consisting of 19 organizations and representing over 240,000 surgeons and anesthesiologists, announced its opposition to the United States Senate's recently introduced "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act."

Throughout 2009, the surgical coalition has worked in good faith to participate in the development of healthcare reform language and has offered comments to Senate leadership in an effort to improve existing reform proposals.

"As physicians who work in our nation's healthcare system each and every day, it is particularly disheartening that the Senate leadership has, despite our best efforts, failed to incorporate our suggestions and address many of our concerns," said AAO-HNS President Ronald Kuppersmith, MD.

Healthcare is a personal issue, where physicians and patients work together to make critical health decisions. 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.

Although the AAO-HNS and the surgical coalition are opposed to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as it is currently written, they remain committed to the passage of meaningful and comprehensive healthcare reform. The AAO-HNS welcomes the opportunity to work with Senate leaders to make the critical changes necessary to ensure that the legislation is based on sound policy and has a long-term positive impact on patient access to safe and effective high-quality surgical care.

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."



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Empowering otolaryngologist—head and neck surgeons to deliver the best patient care

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