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## **AAO-HNS Urges Super Committee to Tackle Long-Standing Healthcare “Deficits”**

*Ear, Nose, Throat, Head and Neck (ENT) Surgeons Identify Key Issues for Action*

**Alexandria, Va.** – On September 22, 2011, the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS), representing nearly 12,000 of America’s ENT surgeons, sent a [letter](#) to members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (“Super Committee”) identifying the following issues for consideration during its upcoming deliberations:

- Permanent repeal of the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula used in determining Medicare physician payments;
- Full repeal of the unelected, unaccountable Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB);
- Enactment of proven medical liability reforms, and the budgetary savings associated with such improvements; and
- Preservation of critical Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs to ensure an experienced physician workforce for future generations.

Although the timeline for its recommendations to Congress is short, the Super Committee has a unique opportunity to present robust and positive healthcare changes to legislators for a vote.

“From a procedural standpoint,” stated AAO-HNS Executive Vice President David R. Nielsen, MD, “the process for considering the Super Committee’s recommendations may be the only prospect we’ll have for years to address some of the current deficits in our healthcare system – particularly the breakdown of the Medicare physician payment system and the lack of effective federal medical liability reforms.”

While the AAO-HNS recognizes the dire need for a substantive plan to reduce the deficit, it is important that Congress not balance the nation’s fiscal shortcomings on the backs of America’s patients and the highly-skilled surgeons providing care in this nation.

For more information about AAO-HNS federal legislative priorities and its position regarding any deficit reduction plan, please contact [legfederal@entnet.org](mailto:legfederal@entnet.org).

### ***About the AAO-HNS***

*The American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery ([www.entnet.org](http://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.”*