



AMERICAN ORTHOPAEDIC  
FOOT & ANKLE SOCIETY.

AAOS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

Representative Brad Wenstrup, Chairman  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
Subcommittee on Health  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Wenstrup,

On behalf of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), which represents over 18,000 board-certified orthopaedic surgeons, and the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS), which represents over 2,200 orthopaedic surgeons specializing in foot and ankle disorders, we would like to express support for your amendment to H.R. 1058, the VA Provider Equity Act.

The Wenstrup amendment will increase access to foot and ankle care for Veterans by improving recruitment and retention within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of highly qualified podiatrists. The amendment accomplishes this by raising salaries for podiatrists and allowing podiatrists access to appropriate leadership positions at the VA. Podiatrists are an essential part of the care team at the VA and work alongside orthopaedic surgeons every day to provide excellent service to Veterans.

Thank you and your staff for your commitment to our veterans and for working with us throughout this process. We are happy to support the resulting legislation.

Sincerely,

William Maloney, MD  
President  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Thomas Lee, MD  
President  
American Foot and Ankle Society