

July 14, 2008

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1501

Dear Senator Grassley:

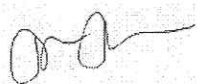
The North American Spine Society (NASS) is a multi-disciplinary organization, whose members represent over twenty specialties in the field of spine care. We commend you for your leadership and offer our support for S. 2029, the "Physician Payments Sunshine Act," as revised. NASS has been at the forefront of providing our members with ethical guidelines for their relationships with industry. Our organization has taken great strides to ensure that the relationship between the pharmaceutical and device industry and our members, especially those leading our organization, are fully transparent and held to the highest standards.

We believe the bill will strengthen transparency in the medical profession and uphold the ethical standards that NASS and the rest of organized medicine have in place to govern the interaction between physicians and the pharmaceutical and medical device industries.

The NASS Board of Directors, together with our Ethics Task Force, review disclosure and conflict of interest policies on a regular basis to assure that we remain on the forefront in this important and evolving area. Recent examples of our commitment to excellence in this area include the creation of a Conflict of Interest Review Committee, the decision to add a professional ethicist to the Board of Directors, and enhanced clarity of conflict of interest disclosure at our upcoming Society meetings.

We all aspire to the mutual goals of providing transparency in the medical profession and ensuring that interactions between physicians and industry benefit patients. The North American Spine Society stands ready to provide testimony on this crucial legislation should the opportunity arise.

Sincerely,



Tom Faciszewski, MD
President



Stanley A. Herring, MD
Chair, NASS Ethics Task Force

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