



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

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President

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The Honorable Renee Ellmers
US House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Ellmers:

On behalf of the 9,000 fellows and members of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), I thank you for introducing the “Further Flexibility in HIT Reporting and Advancing Interoperability Act” (HR 3309), or “Flex IT 2 Act.” If passed, this important legislation will provide greater flexibility for providers participating in the “Meaningful Use” (MU) program.

Like other Medicare providers, oral and maxillofacial surgeons are required to adopt and “meaningfully use” certified electronic health records (EHRs) or face a penalty on their Part B reimbursement. While the recently released stage 3 regulations addressed many issues highlighted in HR 3309, MU remains a complex issue that must balance technological progress with patient care. The AAOMS and its members have ongoing concerns that as the program continues to move at such a speed, vendors have little time to adopt the necessary changes and become recertified. Furthermore, health care providers, already overwhelmed with implementing other federal regulatory requirements in their practices such as ICD-10 and various physician quality improvement initiatives, have even less time to fully integrate the changes into their day-to-day workflows.

Again, thank you for serving as an advocate for providers on these vital health information technology issues. The AAOMS respectfully asks that you continue to push for a delay in the implementation of further meaningful use requirements. Please contact Ms. Jeanne Tuerk of the AAOMS Governmental Affairs Department at 847/678-6200 or jtuerk@aaoms.org if we can be of any assistance on this or other health IT issues.

Sincerely,

Louis K. Rafetto, DMD
President