



**American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®**
Proven leaders. Lifelong learners. Changing lives.

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July 7, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch
McConnell Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin
McCarthy Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E.
Schumer Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of our 7,700 members, the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. We commend you for recognizing the power of telemedicine in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and we urge you to extend telemedicine provisions for 12-months.

Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPM), also known as Podiatric Foot and Ankle Surgeons, have a unique role in helping patients with foot and ankle problems improve their quality of life. We treat both surgical and non-surgical injuries to the lower extremity. We also manage many patients with diabetes that develop wounds and infections to the lower extremities.

By using telemedicine, we can continue to treat these ailments and reduce the risk of complications that may increase a patient's morbidity and also create a burden to our medical system and hospitals.

During these unusual times, DPMs are committed to safely meeting the needs of their patients and communities. We urge you to continue telehealth services for the next 12-months not only to help improve patient care, but also to decrease the burden on overworked hospitals and emergency rooms.

We hope that you take these issues into consideration as you move forward with another package and wish you safe and healthy days.

Scott C. Nelson, DPM
President, American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons