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February 29, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Durbin and Young and Representatives Bilirakis and Schiff,

On behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), I would like to thank you for introducing the Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act to reauthorize the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Congenital Heart Defect program. Originally passed in 2010, the CDC Congenital Heart Defect Program represents the federal government's commitment to better understanding congenital heart defects (CHD) across the lifespan and raises awareness of this condition.

Founded in 1964, STS is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,700 surgeons, researchers, and allied healthcare professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lungs, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest.

We deeply appreciate your leadership on this legislation because our specialty sees firsthand the effects of CHDs and the devastating impacts they cause. CHDs are the most common birth defect, and the knowledge gained through this program enhances our ability to diagnose and treat these conditions while contributing to improved patient outcomes and quality of life. By reauthorizing and strengthening this program, the federal government is investing in the future of countless individuals and families, ensuring that advancements in medical science continue to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those affected by these complex cardiac conditions.

Thank you once again for your commitment to this important public health issue. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to move this legislation forward. Please contact Molly Peltzman, Associate Director of Health Policy, at mpeltzman@sts.org, or Derek Brandt, Vice President of Government Affairs, at dbrandt@sts.org, should you need additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Romano, MD
President