February 26, 2020

Senator Rob Portman  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Portman and Cortez Masto,

The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) appreciates your bipartisan leadership in introducing The Technical Assistance for Small and Underserved Providers to Prevent Oversights and Refocus on Treatment Act (TA SUPPORT Act).

ASTRO is the largest radiation oncology society in the world, with more than 10,000 members who specialize in treating patients with radiation therapies. As the leading organization in radiation oncology, biology and physics, the Society is dedicated to improving patient care through education, clinical practice, advancement of science and advocacy. ASTRO’s highest priority has always been ensuring patients receive the safest, most effective treatments.

The Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) is a complex quality program, and any help to reduce administrative burden on small practices is welcomed. We have heard from small and rural radiation oncology practices that find this type of programmatic support useful. These support resources have been used since the beginning of the program. However, with continued yearly programmatic changes, this type of support is necessary and should be maintained.

ASTRO is aggressively pursuing a Radiation Oncology Alternative Payment Model; however, it appears not all radiation oncology practices will be eligible to participate, meaning they must continue in MIPS. This legislation will help those small practices greatly.

ASTRO urges Congress to pass the TA SUPPORT Act and looks forward working with Congress to ensure a successful transition to value-based care.

Sincerely,

Laura I. Thevenot  
Chief Executive Officer