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ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS PRAISE SENATE
FOR PASSAGE OF MEDICAL LIABILITY BILL

HARRISBURG (September 26, 2006) – The Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society (POS) President Joshua Port, M.D. today praised the entire Senate for taking an important first step to ensure patient access to quality bone, joint and muscle care by extending the state’s Mcare abatement program.

“Orthopaedic surgeons and their patients are grateful for the Senate’s action today to avoid the potential disaster of high-risk specialty surgeons unable to work in our trauma centers or emergency rooms this winter,” Port, of Altoona, said. “Mcare abatement continues to be the critical component for long-term relief for physicians here facing Pennsylvania’s medical liability crisis.”

Senate Bill 972, which would extend the state’s Mcare Abatement Program through 2007, unanimously passed the Senate today. Without legislative action, the Mcare Abatement Program is due to expire December 31. The House is expected to consider the legislation in October.

Port thanked Sen. John C. Rafferty (R-Montgomery) for introducing the legislation and Senate leaders for pushing for its passage in a timely manner this fall.

POS is a professional medical specialty organization representing more than 1,000 orthopaedic surgeons across Pennsylvania. For more information, visit the POS website at www.paorthosociety.org.

This year POS celebrates its 50th Anniversary ***"50 Years and Growing Stronger"*** with a series of public education materials and activities highlighting the excellence of orthopaedic medicine in Pennsylvania and the importance of bone, joint and muscle health at every age.

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