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## **AAO-HNS Expresses Disappointment with Super Committee’s Inability to Tackle Long-Standing Healthcare “Deficits”**

*Ear, Nose, Throat, Head and Neck (ENT) Surgeons Identify Key Issues for Action*

**Alexandria, Va.** – The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS), representing nearly 12,000 of America’s ENT surgeons, is disappointed that the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (“Super Committee”) has failed to take advantage of a unique opportunity to present robust and positive healthcare changes to Congress, such as:

- Permanent repeal of the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula used in determining Medicare physician payments
- Full repeal of the unelected, unaccountable Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)
- Enactment of proven medical liability reforms, and the budgetary savings associated with such improvements

“Serious issues remain in our healthcare delivery system,” stated AAO-HNS Executive Vice President/CEO David R. Nielsen, MD, “and we saw the charge of the Super Committee as a means to address some of the key health reform areas absent in the Affordable Care Act – particularly providing stability for the nation’s Medicare physician payment system.”

While the AAO-HNS recognizes the importance of ongoing efforts to reduce the national deficit, it is also critical that Congress protect the infrastructure and “pipeline” used to train the highly-skilled surgeons in the United States. As deficit reduction plans move forward, the AAO-HNS urges Members of Congress to use caution when considering any reductions to existing Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs.

For more information about AAO-HNS federal legislative priorities and its position regarding any deficit reduction plan, please contact [legfederal@entnet.org](mailto:legfederal@entnet.org).

### ***About the AAO-HNS***

*The American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (www.entnet.org), one of the oldest medical associations in the nation, represents nearly 12,000 physicians and allied health professionals who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the ears, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck. The Academy serves its members by facilitating the advancement of the science and art of medicine related to otolaryngology and by representing the specialty in governmental and socioeconomic issues. The organization’s vision: “Empowering otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons to deliver the best patient care.”*

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