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The Honorable Dennis Bush
Human Resources Committee
Iowa House of Representatives
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

VIA E-MAIL

Re: HF 289- Direct Health Care Agreements

Dear Representative Bush,

On behalf of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM)—representing 4,100 board-certified sports medicine physicians—I am writing to express our support for HF 289.

AMSSM is the largest physician-only sports medicine organization in the United States, representing a multi-disciplinary membership of physicians dedicated to education, research, advocacy, and the care of active individuals of all ages. The majority of AMSSM members are primary care physicians with additional fellowship training and board certification in sports medicine, who then combine their subspecialty practice of sports medicine with their primary specialty. In Iowa, AMSSM currently has 48 sports medicine physician members in a variety of settings from universities to private practice. AMSSM's members provide primary care as well as specialized care to thousands of active youth and adults in Iowa.

Many smaller medical practices in Iowa and throughout the United States have plans to expand and grow their practices—much like a small business seeks to expand and grow to bring more services to the community—but are often limited by policies, however well-intentioned, that restrict growth. For instance, public policies that restrict contractual agreements between physicians and patients often prevent small private practices from achieving financial stability outside the third-party payment system and can result in a loss of overall access to health care for the public.

HF 289 expands and clarifies the definitions in the Direct Primary Care Agreements legislation that was passed in 2018, to include physician subspecialties, which would liberate many of AMSSM's sports medicine physicians in private practice from current policies that restrict direct contractual arrangements. On behalf of AMSSM, I respectfully request that the Committee support HF 289.

Sincerely yours,

Tracy Ray, MD, FAMSSM
President
American Medical Society for Sports Medicine