



Why Plastic Surgery Patients Should be Outraged by a Tax on Elective Medical Procedures December 2009

The United States Senate is currently proposing a tax on cosmetic medical services as part of its health care reform package. While it is true that there are increasing strains on the economy, this is an inappropriate and inherently flawed answer to fiscal distress. Taxing elective medical procedures presents a number of problems for patients, including the following:

- **Discriminates against women.** Cosmetic surgery taxes discriminate against working women. According to the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, 86% of all cosmetic procedures are requested by women.
- **Taxes Middle-Class.** The provision violates President Obama's promise to not tax individuals making less than \$250,000 annually. ASPS found that 71% of plastic surgeries were for individuals making less than \$60,000 a year.
- **Violates Patient Privacy.** This provision invites the IRS into the exam room. Enforcement of this provision will include IRS audits of medical practices to determine whether procedures were cosmetic.
- **Physicians should determine medical necessity, not the Government.** The line between "cosmetic" and "reconstructive" surgery is not always clear and leaves the decision of medical necessity up to tax auditors—a completely inappropriate proposition.

**Express your Outrage and Call your Senator at
1-877-221-8207
to oppose this insidious tax today!**