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March 30, 2017

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: "Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017"

Dear Senator Cassidy:

We, the undersigned members of the Health Coalition on Liability and Access (HCLA), wish to express our sincere thanks for your leadership on the *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017*. This much needed legislation will ensure that victims of federally declared disasters will have adequate access to medical care following a catastrophic event.

Following national calamities like a natural disaster or a terrorist attack, it is crucial for injured Americans to have access to adequate medical resources in a timely manner. Unfortunately, federal law does not provide adequate protection to health care professionals who spontaneously volunteer their medical services during disasters, nor does it protect those volunteers who cross state lines to treat victims of these catastrophes. Compounding this problem, the current patchwork of state laws that aim to encourage medical volunteerism are ambiguous and inconsistent, especially when applied to large-scale disasters. These issues create an environment where vital medical volunteers may be turned away or forced to limit their services at a time when their help is most needed.

The *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017* corrects these problems by providing civil liability protections to licensed health care professionals who volunteer their time and skills to treat disaster victims. Additionally, the bill only applies these protections to care delivered during the duration of a federal disaster declaration.

In closing, we thank you again for your leadership role in addressing this matter before another major disaster strikes the United States, and for your efforts to draw your colleagues' attention to this issue. We look forward to working with you to build support for the bill in the coming months.

Sincerely,

American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American College of Surgeons
American Medical Association
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Urological Association
Cooperative of American Physicians
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Medical Assurance Company of Mississippi
Medical Insurance Exchange of California
Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company
National Association of Spine Specialists
NORCAL Mutual Insurance Company
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