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March 18, 2016

The Hon. John Kline, Chair
House Committee on Education & the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

We, as the leadership of the Health Coalition on Liability and Access (HCLA), would like to congratulate you on being named to the Health Care Reform Task Force, and commend you for your willingness to take on the difficult task which lies before you.

As you may be aware, the HCLA is a national advocacy coalition of associations and businesses representing a broad array of health care professionals and facilities, health care liability insurers, employers, and health care consumers. We are dedicated to reforming our medical liability system to increase patient safety, ensure that injured patients are compensated quickly and fairly, improve provider-patient communications, and foster an environment for affordable and accessible medical liability insurance.

In your role on the Task Force, we request that you include comprehensive, time-tested medical liability reforms in any proposal to address our nation's ongoing need for an improved health care payment and delivery system. Such reforms will improve access to care, enhance the patient-provider relationship, and provide billions in savings to the American taxpayer.

It has been many years since Congress has addressed comprehensive medical liability reforms and, as such, many of your colleagues may not be familiar with the positive effect such reforms can have on the health care system. In addition, while proven reforms must remain as the base of any medical liability proposal, changes to the medical liability environment over the last decade necessitate that adjustments be made to legislation which Congress has considered in the past. In this regard, we would like to request a meeting to discuss this issue with you and your staff so that we may provide you with the latest information on this issue and suggest strategies for addressing medical liability reform going forward.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to improve our nation's health care system.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Stinson, HCLA Chair
PIAA

Katie Orrico, HCLA Vice Chair
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Catherine Boudreaux, HCLA Secretary
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

HCLA Membership

American Academy of Dermatology
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Cardiology
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Surgeons
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Hospital Association
American Insurance Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Directors Association
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American Osteopathic Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Tort Reform Association
American Urological Association
Californians Allied for Patient Protection
Cooperative of American Physicians
COPIC Insurance Company
The Doctors' Company
Federation of American Hospitals
MAG Mutual Insurance Company
Medical Assurance Company of Mississippi
Medical Insurance Exchange of California
Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company
Medical Protective Company
National Association of Health Underwriters
National Association of Spine Specialists
NORCAL Mutual Insurance Company
Physicians Insurance A Mutual Company
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Piedmont Liability Trust
Premier health alliance
ProAssurance
State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company
Texas Alliance for Patient Access
Texas Medical Liability Trust