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February 27, 2017

The Hon. Bob Goodlatte, Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

On behalf of the Health Coalition on Liability and Access (HCLA), we wish to thank you for scheduling a markup of the Protecting Access to Care Act (H.R. 1215) and urge the bill's prompt passage through the Judiciary Committee.

As you are aware, the HCLA is a national advocacy coalition of associations and businesses representing doctors and other health care providers, hospitals, nursing and assisted living 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 ensure affordable and accessible medical liability insurance. The broad alliance which makes up the HCLA ensures that we advocate for solutions to our medical liability problems that are designed to have the most comprehensive benefits to the entire health care community.

As introduced, the Protecting Access to Care Act achieves all of these goals. This legislation adopts many of the reforms which have been thoroughly tested in the states and which have proven successful in improving the medical liability climate in those states. At the same time, it protects those states that have enacted effective reforms, and provides substantial flexibility to adopt variations of these reforms in order to meet their unique circumstances.

Federal medical liability reforms will return fairness and equity to our medical liability system for patients and providers alike. In addition, as previously noted by the Congressional Budget Office, these reforms will bring significant budgetary savings to aid in the efforts to reduce our national deficit.

Again, we thank you for your leadership in seeking enactment of these important reforms and offer our endorsement of the Protecting Access to Care Act as introduced. If there is any way we may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Specialty Medicine
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Surgeons
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living
American Hospital Association
American Medical Association
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Tort Reform Association
American Urological Association
CNA Financial
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
COPIC Insurance
Cooperative of American Physicians
The Doctors Company
Medical Insurance Company of Mississippi
Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company
MedPro Group
National Association of Spine Specialists
NORCAL Mutual Insurance Company
Physician Insurance A Mutual Company
PIAA
Premier healthcare alliance
SVMIC