March 29, 2023

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance) represents more than 100,000 specialty physicians across 16 specialty and subspecialty societies and is deeply committed to improving access to specialty medical care by advancing sound health care policy. As medical and surgical specialists, the undersigned organizations appreciate the opportunity to respond to the HELP Committee’s Request for Information (RFI) related to the reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA).

As you consider public health emergency coordination and policy, and support for jurisdictional preparedness and response capacity, we urge you to ensure Federal law provides medical service volunteers who cross state lines to assist with the response to a national emergency, major disaster, or a public health emergency with adequate protection as provided in the bipartisan Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act (S. 2941 in the 117th Congress).
Many of the specialty physicians represented by the Alliance volunteer their time and skills to respond in times of crisis and ensure quality medical care is available. Federal law should provide these medical service volunteers who cross state lines to assist with the response to a national emergency with adequate protection. We urge you to extend federal liability protections to licensed, certified, or authorized health care professionals who volunteer for the purposes of responding to a disaster. The lack of liability protections under these circumstances is a gap in current response policy and extending such authority can support the partnerships and health care professionals who are able to assist during times of crisis.

Thank you for considering our feedback as you develop legislation to reauthorize PAHPA. Please contact us at info@specialtydocs.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Retina Specialists
American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Association of Spine Specialists
Society of Interventional Radiology