



## Sound Policy. Quality Care.

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chair  
Senate HELP Committee  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
Ranking Member  
Senate HELP Committee  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey  
U.S. Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitt Romney  
U.S. Senate  
354 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Submitted electronically to [PAHPA2023Comments@help.senate.gov](mailto:PAHPA2023Comments@help.senate.gov)

**RE: Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) Reauthorization RFI**

Dear Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Cassidy, Senator Casey, and Senator Romney:

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 117<sup>th</sup> Congress).

[www.specialtydocs.org](http://www.specialtydocs.org)

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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 & 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

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](mailto: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  
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