May 4, 2017

The Honorable Richard Hudson
429 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 1704, the "Accessible Care by Curbing Excessive lawSuitS (ACCESS) Act"

Dear Representative Hudson:

As the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance), our mission is to advocate for sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. As patient and physician advocates, the Alliance writes in support of H.R. 1704, the "Accessible Care by Curbing Excessive lawSuitS (ACCESS) Act". This bill sets conditions for lawsuits arising from health care liability claims.

The Alliance supports meaningful medical liability reform that reduces growth in health care costs, stabilizes professional liability insurance premiums, preserves access to specialty care, and encourages physician engagement in meaningful quality improvement activities. Meaningful medical liability reform, as outlined in the ACCESS Act, fully compensates patients for medical/economic damages, while placing a $250,000 limit on noneconomic damages and making a defendant liable only for damages equal to his/her share of responsibility; maximizes patient awards and discourages frivolous lawsuits through sliding scale contingency fees; and eliminates double recovery by accounting for evidence of collateral source benefits paid.

For these reasons, the Alliance extends our strong support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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 Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Association of Spine Specialists

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American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive 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 Urological Association • Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
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