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May 4, 2017

The Hon. Richard Hudson  
United States House of Representatives  
429 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hudson:

On behalf of the Health Coalition on Liability and Access (HCLA) and other interested stakeholders, we wish to thank you for your leadership role in introducing the Accessible Care by Curbing Excessive lawSuitS (ACCESS) Act, H.R. 1704.

As you are aware, the HCLA is a national advocacy coalition of associations and businesses representing physicians and other health care providers, hospitals, nursing and assisted living facilities, health care liability companies, 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 coverage. 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.

The ACCESS Act achieves all of these goals. This legislation embraces those reforms which have been thoroughly tested in the states and which have proven successful in improving the medical liability climate in those states. It also adopts newer reforms which can help reduce the number of meritless claims that are filed. At the same time, it protects those states that have enacted effective reforms, and provides substantial flexibility for them 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 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 sponsoring this important legislation and offer our endorsement of the ACCESS Act. If there is any way we may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care 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 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  
MAG Mutual Insurance Company  
Medical Assurance 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

***Additional Stakeholders***

Alliance of Specialty Medicine  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Echocardiography  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations