



## Sound Policy. Quality Care.

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
2309 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers  
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee  
2426 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for H.R. 4771, the “Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2016”**

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

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 the House Judiciary’s intent to advance the H.R. 4771, the “Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2016”** (Rep. Trent Franks, R-Ariz.). This bill sets conditions for lawsuits arising from health care liability claims. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the reforms contained in the bill would lower health care costs by an estimated \$40 billion over a ten-year period.

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 HEALTH 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 its advancement in the House, and we commend you for considering this important legislation.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
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  
North American Spine Society  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions