



**A Coalition of 14 Medical Societies Representing
more than 200,000 Specialty Physicians in the United States**

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March 8, 2004

Dear Senator:

The undersigned members of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine are pleased to support S. 720, the “Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2003”, and strongly urge you to support the passage of this legislation when it comes before you for consideration. It is our understanding that this legislation may be brought to the Senate floor this week as part of Patient Safety Awareness Week.

We are very pleased that S. 720 emphasizes voluntary medical error reporting as a means of educating providers rather than punishing them. The bill also provides important legal protections that are necessary to encourage the voluntary disclosure of medical errors. This important legislation reflects the commitment of our member organizations to the goal of reducing medical errors and improving the quality of care for our patients – a goal we believe can be achieved if a system such as the one proposed by this bill is established to encourage continuous safety and quality improvements through the education of health care providers.

Therefore, on behalf of our organizations, and the patients we serve, we again urge you to vote for the passage of S. 720. Please contact the Co-Chairs of the Alliance’s Patient Safety Work Group, Jeff Jacobs at jjacobs@ascpwash.org or 202-347-4450, or Laura Saul Edwards at ledwards@aad.org or 202-842-3555, should you need further information from us on this matter.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Cardiology
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Radiology Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery
National Association of Spine Specialists
American Urological Association
Society of Thoracic Surgeons

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American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology • American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery
American Urological Association • National Association of Spine Specialists • Society of Thoracic Surgeons