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April 16, 2013

The Honorable Phil Gingrey, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
U.S. House of Representatives
2431 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Gingrey and Cuellar:

On behalf of the Health Coalition on Liability and Access (HCLA), we would like to thank you for sponsoring the Standard of Care Protection Act (H.R. 1473). Please know that the HCLA stands firmly behind this legislation.

As you are aware, the HCLA is a national advocacy coalition of associations and businesses representing doctors, dentists, allied health care providers, hospitals, health care liability insurers, 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 foster an environment for affordable and accessible medical liability insurance. 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.

We are pleased to be able to endorse H.R. 1473, the Standard of Care Protection Act. This legislation will help ensure that provisions of law regarding federal health care programs are not used, outside their intended purpose, to create new standards of care for medical liability lawsuits. With so many changes occurring in the health care system, many people have concerns that misinterpretations of federal rules and regulations could result in new, and unwarranted, liability exposures. This legislation will help alleviate those concerns amongst health care providers, and will reassure patients that steps have been taken to ensure that their access to care is not inadvertently limited.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to bring the Standard of Care Protection Act forward, and the HCLA stands ready to help you advance this bill through the House and Senate.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Stinson
Chair