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July 9, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: "Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2018"

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

Representing a diverse coalition of providers and associations working to reduce medical lawsuit abuse and improve timely access to quality care, the Health Coalition on Liability and Access requests that you include the *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2018* (H.R. 1876) in the *Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2018* when the House Energy & Commerce Committee marks up the latter bill this week.

As you are well aware, the Committee previously approved H.R. 1876 by unanimous voice vote earlier this year. This bipartisan legislation would address inconsistencies in current federal and state laws that could subject medical professionals and licensed health care providers to unjust medical liability lawsuits when they volunteer their services to disaster victims. The *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2018* would help protect medical volunteers from such lawsuits during a federally-declared disaster, and ensure that vital health care services often provided by medical volunteers remain available – all while respecting existing medical liability laws in individual states.

The *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2018* will ensure that an adequate supply of trained health care professionals is ready, willing and able to volunteer their services during a catastrophe, and that they will not be deterred or turned away due to the threat of lawsuits. We strongly believe it is only appropriate to include the bill in comprehensive legislation designed to address public health emergencies.

On behalf of our coalition members, and patients and providers across the country, we urge you to include H.R. 1876, as passed by the Energy & Commerce Committee, in the *Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2018* and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Surgeons
American Medical Association
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Tort Reform Association
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Cooperative of American Physicians
COPIC
The Doctors Company
MAGMutual Insurance Company
Medical Assurance Company of Mississippi
Medical Insurance Exchange of California
Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company
National Association of Spine Specialists
NORCAL Group
Physicians Insurance A Mutual Company
PIAA
Society for Vascular Surgery
SVMIC
TEAMHealth
Texas Alliance for Patient Access
Texas Medical Liability Trust