

January 25, 2011

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

Dear Dr. Gingrey:

The undersigned organizations commend you for introducing H.R. 5, the “Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2011.” Your legislation includes significant reforms that will help repair our nation’s medical liability system, reduce the growth of health care costs, and preserve patients’ access to medical care.

Experts agree that the current tort system in the U.S. leads to an increase in health care costs. The proven reforms contained in the HEALTH Act would help reduce costs, while ensuring that patients who have been injured due to negligence receive just compensation. This bill provides the right balance of reforms by promoting speedier resolutions to disputes, maintaining access to courts, maximizing patient recovery of damage awards with unlimited compensation for economic damages, while limiting non-economic damages to a quarter million dollars. In addition, the HEALTH Act protects effective state medical liability reform laws.

Thank you for your commitment to improve our nation’s medical liability system. It is time for Congress to enact meaningful medical liability reform legislation to repair the current litigious climate that continues to increase health care costs and compromise patients’ access to care.

Sincerely,

AMDA – Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine  
American Academy of Clinical Urologists  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Nueromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Phlebology  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Medical Association  
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Rhinologic Society  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
Child Neurology Foundation  
College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Medical Group Management Association  
North American Spine Society  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Interventional Radiology  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Medical Association of the State of Alabama  
Alaska State Medical Association  
Arizona Medical Association  
Arkansas Medical Society

Colorado Medical Society  
Connecticut State Medical Society  
Medical Society of Delaware  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
Florida Medical Association Inc  
Medical Association of Georgia  
Hawaii Medical Association  
Idaho Medical Association  
Illinois State Medical Society  
Iowa Medical Society  
Kansas Medical Society  
Kentucky Medical Association  
Louisiana State Medical Society  
Maine Medical Association  
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society  
Minnesota Medical Association  
Mississippi State Medical Association  
Missouri State Medical Association  
Montana Medical Association  
Nebraska Medical Association  
Nevada State Medical Association  
New Hampshire Medical Society  
Medical Society of New Jersey  
New Mexico Medical Society  
Medical Society of the State of New York  
North Carolina Medical Society  
North Dakota Medical Association  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Oklahoma State Medical Association  
Oregon Medical Association  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Rhode Island Medical Society  
South Carolina Medical Association  
South Dakota State Medical Association  
Tennessee Medical Association  
Utah Medical Association  
Vermont Medical Society  
Washington State Medical Association  
West Virginia State Medical Association  
Wyoming Medical Society