



PO Box 78096
Washington, DC 20013-8096
www.HCLA.org

August 5, 2016

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: S.3101, "Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2016"

Dear Senator Cassidy:

We, the undersigned members of the Health Coalition on Liability and Access (HCLA), the largest organization in Washington, DC dedicated to medical liability reform, wish to express our sincere thanks for your sponsorship of the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2016 (S. 3101). This much needed legislation will ensure that disaster victims have adequate access to medical care following a catastrophic event that is declared a federal disaster.

In times of crisis, including natural disasters or a terrorist attack, it is crucial for our citizens to have access to adequate medical resources in a timely manner. Unfortunately, federal law does not provide adequate protection to health care professionals who spontaneously volunteer their medical services during calamities, nor does it protect those volunteers who cross state lines to treat victims of disasters. Compounding this problem, the current patchwork of state laws that aim to encourage medical volunteerism are ambiguous and inconsistent, especially when applied to large-scale disasters. These issues create an environment where vital medical volunteers may be turned away or forced to limit their services at a time when their help is most needed.

The Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2016 corrects this problem by providing civil liability protections to licensed health care professionals who volunteer their time and talents to aid disaster victims. In addition, in order to ensure the bill in no way disrupts current state medical liability systems, it only applies these protections to those treating disaster victims after a state has requested a federal disaster declaration, and ends the protections when the declaration expires.

Again, we thank you for your leadership role in addressing this matter before another major disaster strikes the United States, and for your efforts to draw your colleagues'

attention to this issue. We look forward to working with you to build support for S. 3101 in the coming months.

Sincerely,

American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Surgeons
American Medical Association
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Association
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Tort Reform Association
American Urological Association
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Cooperative of American Physicians
Physicians Insurance A Mutual Company
PIAA
MAG Mutual Insurance Company
Medical Assurance Company of Mississippi
Medical Insurance Exchange of California
National Association of Spine Specialists
NORCAL Mutual Insurance Company
State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company
The Doctors Company