

June 9, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Democratic Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

The undersigned state, specialty, and national medical associations represent hundreds of thousands of frontline medical and mental health physicians who are diagnosing, testing, treating, and counseling millions of our nation's patients in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this unprecedented national health emergency, physicians and other health care professionals have been putting themselves at risk every day while facing shortages of medical supplies and safety equipment, and making critical medical decisions based on changing directives and guidance. These physicians and other health care professionals are now facing the threat of years of costly litigation due to the extraordinary circumstances. As the House and Senate continue to work on the next COVID-19 relief package, **we strongly urge you to include the targeted and limited liability protections that are in the bipartisan bill, H.R. 7059, the "Coronavirus Provider Protection Act."**

The public health emergency triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges to our nation's health care system. In addition to facing inadequate supplies and safety equipment, physicians, hospitals, and other frontline health care professionals have been faced with rapidly changing guidance and directives from all levels of government. Examples include suspending elective in-person visits and procedures, being assigned to provide care outside the physician's general practice area, rationing care due to shortages of equipment such as ventilators, inadequate testing that could lead to delayed or inaccurate diagnosis, and delays in treatment for patients with conditions other than COVID-19. In these and other scenarios, physicians face the threat of costly and emotionally draining medical liability lawsuits due to circumstances that are beyond their control. These lawsuits may come months or even years after the current ordeal is over.

The liability protections we call on Congress to pass are not universal; they are intended to provide targeted and limited protections where health care services are provided or withheld in situations that may be beyond the control of physicians/facilities (e.g., following government guidelines, directives, lack of resources) due to COVID-19. The protections extend to those who provide care in good faith during the COVID-19 public health emergency (plus a reasonable time, such as 60 days, after the emergency declaration ends), and not in situations of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

As physicians and other health care professionals, and the facilities in which they provide their services, continue their heroic efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 while caring for COVID-19 patients as well as meeting the needs of other patients, they will remain vulnerable to the threat of unwarranted and unfair lawsuits. We therefore strongly urge Congress to consider targeted and limited liability protections for physicians, other health care professionals, and the facilities in which they practice as they continue their efforts to treat COVID-19 under unprecedented conditions.

We thank you for your consideration.

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Honorable Charles Schumer  
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Sincerely,

American Medical Association  
AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy  
American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association for Hand Surgery  
American Association for Physician Leadership  
American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
American Association of Clinical Urologists  
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Association of Public Health Physicians  
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Chest Physicians  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Medical Group Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association

American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery  
American Society for Metabolic & 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 Dermatopathology  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Retina Specialists  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
American Vein & Lymphatic Society  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association of University Radiologists  
College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery  
International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association of Medical Examiners  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
North American Neuromodulation Society  
North American Spine Society  
Outpatient Endovascular & Interventional Society  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Spine Intervention Society  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

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

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California Medical Association  
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  
Indiana State Medical Association  
Iowa Medical Society  
Kansas Medical Society  
Kentucky Medical Association  
Louisiana State Medical Society  
Maine Medical Association  
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Michigan State Medical Society  
Minnesota Medical Association  
Mississippi State Medical Association  
Missouri State 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  
Texas Medical Association  
Utah Medical Association  
Vermont Medical Society  
Medical Society of Virginia  
Washington State Medical Association  
West Virginia State Medical Association  
Wisconsin Medical Society  
Wyoming Medical Society