

September 16, 2009

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned physician organizations commend you for acknowledging in your September 9<sup>th</sup> speech to a Joint Session of Congress the need to reform our nation's broken medical liability system. The cost of our medical liability system is borne by everyone as defensive medicine adds billions of dollars to the cost of health care each year, which means higher Medicare spending and health insurance premiums for patients. We applaud your direction to the Department of Health and Human Services to take action on this critical issue now.

We support federal funding to develop pilot projects to determine the effectiveness of a wide range of liability reform alternatives, including health courts, early disclosure and compensation programs, administrative determination of compensation model, expert witness qualifications, and liability protections for use of evidence-based medicine guidelines.

We look forward to working with you and your Administration to advance effective medical liability reforms.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Home Care Physicians  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology Professional Association  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiology  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Directors Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Rhinologic Society  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Thoracic Society  
College of American Pathologists  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
Medical Group Management Association  
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
North American Spine Society  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of Nuclear Medicine