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The Honorable Cliff Stearns
U.S. House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stearns:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing in support of H.R. 3586, the "Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2011." This federal bill is designed to provide liability protections to health professionals, including physicians who volunteer to help victims of federally-declared disasters.

The medical profession has a long history of stepping forward to assist disaster victims. Thousands of physicians volunteered in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to help the hurricane victims with their medical needs. Unfortunately, much needed medical volunteers were turned away due to confusion and uncertainty about the application of Good Samaritan laws. H.R. 3586 will help ensure that physicians who volunteer their services in future disasters will not face similar uncertainties, thereby allowing them to focus on providing aid to victims.

We applaud you for introducing the "Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2011," and look forward to working with you to move this important bill forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD