

March 15, 2011

The Honorable John Sullivan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
434 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott  
U.S. House of Representatives  
225 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Sullivan and Scott:

We, the undersigned organizations, are pleased to inform you of our strong support for H.R. 451, the “Healthcare Truth and Transparency Act of 2011.” The ‘Sullivan-Scott’ bill is an important step toward ensuring that patients have accurate information regarding the education, training, and qualifications of individuals providing their health care services. A properly informed patient will be better prepared to make decisions about their health care.

Recent studies confirm increasing patient confusion regarding the many types of health care providers—including physicians, technicians, nurses, physician assistants and other allied providers—engaged in providing services in health care settings. All of these providers play an important and distinct role in the health care delivery system. However, ambiguous provider nomenclature and related advertisements and marketing are exacerbating patient uncertainty. Further, patient autonomy and decision-making are compromised by uncertainty and misunderstanding in the health care patient-provider relationship. By ensuring that patients have reliable information, your legislation would ensure that consumers are empowered to make decisions that are best for them and their family. Our organizations support a health care system where all health care providers fulfill a role in providing quality health care to patients.

Your legislation provides much needed resources and clarifications to address patient confusion in the health care marketplace. Also included are provisions that add modest, yet critically important, increases in resources to marketplace regulators, as well as enhanced transparency requirements regarding medical care. We believe your approach is consistent with other proposals that seek to increase transparency in the health care system and help all Americans become better consumers of health care services.

We applaud your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to call upon us or our members for assistance.

Sincerely,

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  
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  
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  
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

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pain Medicine  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Surgeons  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Medical Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons