



Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President, CEO

May 10, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Dear Chairman Upton:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing today to urge your support of the HEALTH Act, H.R. 5, as it is considered by the Committee on Energy and Commerce this week. America's patients, physicians and taxpayers are breaking under the weight of meritless medical liability lawsuits. The HEALTH Act provides for remedies that have been proven to increase the stability of the health care marketplace while providing those with legitimate claims with just compensation.

Our health care system is awash in meritless liability suits that clog our courts, increase costs, and actually delay just compensation for those who have suffered harm. In 2009, an incredible 64 percent of medical liability claims were dropped, withdrawn, or dismissed. Of those that were actually tried, the defendant prevailed in 88 percent of cases. And while these cases did not result in awards, they are not without impact. The cost of defending even meritless claims runs into the tens of thousands of dollars. These are real costs that are felt by physicians, patients, and payers. In fact, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that enacting the tested reforms contained in H.R. 5 would reduce the federal deficit by \$54 billion over ten years.

The current medical liability system fails both patients and physicians. We urge your support of the time-tested reforms in the HEALTH Act, which will lower costs while ensuring that those with legitimate claims are fairly compensated for their injuries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Maves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA