



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

March 3, 2011

The Honorable Phil Gingrey, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
119 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gingrey:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing in support of H.R. 816, the "Provider Shield Act of 2011." This bill would shield health care providers from new liability exposure resulting from national care and practice standards or guidelines under any provision in the health system reform law, the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" (ACA). In addition, the bill preserves state medical and product liability laws.

The ACA included multiple provisions concerning the establishment and implementation of national care and practice standards and guidelines for health care providers. H.R. 816 makes it clear that the care standards and guidelines detailed in the ACA cannot be used to create new causes of legal action against physicians providing care to their patients, nor do they supersede state liability laws. Physicians should not have to worry about potential new causes of action or liability exposure in an age of developing and implementing new ways to improve the quality and efficiencies of care.

The AMA strongly supports comprehensive medical liability reforms, including reasonable limits on non-economic damages, which have a proven track record of success in states like California and Texas. We believe that your legislation is necessary because it improves the ACA by providing needed legal protections to physicians for using standards, guidelines, and/or their clinical judgment to meet their patient's particular medical care and needs.

The AMA appreciates your commitment to improve our nation's medical liability system, and we look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

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