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May 17, 2017

The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: "Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017"

Dear Chairman Burgess and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the more than 50 domestic medical and healthcare professional liability (MPL/HPL) insurer members of PIAA, I am writing to thank the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health for examining the *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017* (H.R. 1876) during the subcommittee's May 17th hearing. This much needed legislation will ensure that victims of federally declared disasters will have adequate access to medical care following a catastrophic event.

Following national calamities like a natural disaster or a terrorist attack, it is crucial for injured Americans to have access to adequate medical resources in a timely manner. Unfortunately, federal law does not provide adequate protection to health care professionals who spontaneously volunteer their medical services during disasters, nor does it protect those volunteers who cross state lines to treat victims of these catastrophes. Compounding this problem, the current patchwork of state laws that aim to encourage medical volunteerism are ambiguous and inconsistent, especially when applied to large-scale disasters. These issues create an environment where vital medical volunteers may be turned away or forced to limit their services at a time when their help is most needed.

The *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017* corrects these problems by providing civil liability protections to licensed health care professionals who volunteer their time and skills to treat disaster victims. Additionally, the bill only applies these protections to care delivered during the duration of a federal disaster declaration.

In closing, we thank you again for examining H.R. 1876 and hope that Congress enacts this bill into law before a major disaster strikes the United States again.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Atchinson
President and CEO