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March 9, 2017

The Hon. Lamar Smith
United States House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

On behalf of the more than 50 domestic medical and healthcare professional liability (MPL/HPL) insurer members of PIAA, I am writing to express our support for the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act (LARA), H.R. 720.

PIAA is the insurance industry trade association that represents a full range of entities doing business in the MPL/HPL arena, including insurance companies, risk retention groups, captives, trusts, and other entities. PIAA members include MPL/HPL enterprises owned and/or operated by physicians, hospitals, health systems, dentists and oral maxillofacial surgeons, podiatrists, chiropractors, and healthcare providers such as nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, CRNAs, and many others, as well as insurance carriers with a substantial commitment to the MPL/HPL line. PIAA members insure more than two-thirds of America's physicians in private practice, as well as dentists, nurses and nurse practitioners, and other healthcare providers, and they insure more than 2,500 hospitals nationwide.

We appreciate your willingness to move forward with this legislation. MPL/HPL insurers are well aware that our court system is overburdened with meritless lawsuits. Data demonstrates that approximately two-thirds of all MPL/HPL claims are dropped, withdrawn or dismissed for lack of merit, yet these cases consume vast amounts of resources in the interim. Likewise, frivolous lawsuits, such as those that would be addressed by LARA, needlessly waste valuable resources. It is simply common sense that efforts should be made to address the most egregious examples of abuse of our legal system by requiring penalties for those who file frivolous claims.

We thank you for your leadership on the issue of making substantive improvements to our legal system, and express our support for passage of the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act when it comes before the full House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Atchinson
President & CEO