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May 5, 2017

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senate  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus King  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: S.781, "Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017"

Dear Senator Cassidy and Senator King:

On behalf of the more than 50 domestic medical and healthcare professional liability (MPL/HPL) insurer members of PIAA, I am writing to thank you for your leadership on S.781, the *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017*. 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* solves 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.

We thank you again for your leadership role in addressing this matter before another major disaster strikes the United States, and for your efforts to draw your colleagues' attention to this issue. We look forward to working with you to build support for the bill in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Atchinson  
President & CEO