



NEWS RELEASE

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ACCESS Act Would Result in Meaningful, Proven Liability Reforms

(Rockville, MD, July 11, 2019) The Medical Professional Liability Association (MPL Association) President and CEO Brian K. Atchinson issued the following statement about the Accessible Care by Curbing Excessive lawSuitS (ACCESS) Act (H.R. 3656), which was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives:

“The vast resources spent on medical liability cases combined with a patchwork of state tort laws have led to an environment where health professionals are forced to practice defensive medicine and patients in many areas may be at risk of losing access to care. This despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of medical liability claims and lawsuits are ultimately determined to be non-meritorious because there was no deviation from the standard of care. The MPL Association commends Representative Richard Hudson (R-NC) for introducing legislation that includes proven reforms to address a system that fails to adequately serve patients and medical professionals. He was joined on the bill by cosponsors Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN) and Roger Marshall, MD (R-KS).

This carefully crafted proposal would instill stability and fairness into the nation’s tort system by including medical liability reforms that have been successful in many states. At the same time the most recent Congressional Budget office estimate of the legislation reported that the measures in the ACCESS Act would lead to cost savings of \$55 billion for federal healthcare programs and reduce the deficit by almost \$62 billion over a ten-year period.

Medical liability reforms will both improve patient access to care and provide needed budgetary savings by reducing unnecessary litigation. We urge Congress to move forward with the time-tested reforms in the ACCESS Act as soon as possible.”

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The MPL Association is the leading international association representing medical professional liability insurance companies, risk retention groups, captives, trusts, and other entities with a commitment to the quality delivery of healthcare. MPL Association members insure more than 2 million healthcare professionals around the world—doctors, dentists, nurses and nurse practitioners, and other healthcare providers—including more than two-thirds of America’s private practicing physicians. MPL Association members also insure more than 3,000 hospitals and 5,000 medical facilities.