

September 16, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned physician organizations commend you for acknowledging in your September 9th speech to a Joint Session of Congress the need to reform our nation's broken medical liability system. The cost of our medical liability system is borne by everyone as defensive medicine adds billions of dollars to the cost of health care each year, which means higher Medicare spending and health insurance premiums for patients. We applaud your direction to the Department of Health and Human Services to take action on this critical issue now.

We support federal funding to develop pilot projects to determine the effectiveness of a wide range of liability reform alternatives, including health courts, early disclosure and compensation programs, administrative determination of compensation model, expert witness qualifications, and liability protections for use of evidence-based medicine guidelines.

We look forward to working with you and your Administration to advance effective medical liability reforms.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Home Care Physicians
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Neurology Professional Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American College of Cardiology
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Directors Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Rhinologic Society

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Thoracic Society
College of American Pathologists
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
Medical Group Management Association
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
North American Spine Society
Renal Physicians Association
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Interventional Radiology
Society of Nuclear Medicine