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May 11, 2004

The Honorable Jim Greenwood  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Greenwood:

The Health Coalition on Liability and Access (HCLA) offers its strong support for the HEALTH Act of 2004 (HR 4280). The HCLA is a broad-based coalition representing physicians, hospitals, professional liability insurers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, long-term care facilities, health care insurers, employers, and other health-care providers.

The organizations that comprise our coalition are dedicated to ensuring that patients are compensated fairly for their injuries. The HCLA believes that the best model to ensure appropriate patient compensation is California's Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA) of 1975. The HEALTH Act follows the MICRA provisions and will go a long way toward giving Americans a better health-care system.

Health care liability reform is overdue! A recent poll shows 82% of Americans say that they are concerned about their access to care being impacted as doctors and health care professionals leave their practice due to rising liability costs. In addition, in the same poll, 72% of Americans would favor a law which guarantees full payment for lost wages and medical expenses, but reasonably limits the amount that can be awarded for pain and suffering in medical liability cases.

The common-sense reforms contained in the HEALTH Act of 2004 provide the right answers to the wrongs of the current medical-liability system. HCLA is committed to keeping America's health-care system the best in the world, while making sure it is the fairest in the world. If the HCLA can be of any assistance in your effort to enact the HEALTH Act of 2004 this year or if you need additional information, please contact Christian Shalgian, HCLA Chair, at 202-672-1504. You can also visit our website at [www.hcla.org](http://www.hcla.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Aetna  
AdvaMed  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Clinical Laboratory Association

American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Surgeons  
American Health Care Association  
American Hospital Association  
American Insurance Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Directors Association  
American Medical Group Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Society for Bariatric Surgery  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of General Surgeons  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Californians Allied for Patient Protection  
Coalition for Affordable and Reliable Healthcare  
College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
The Doctors' Company  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania  
MAG Mutual Insurance Company  
Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company  
Medical Mutual Insurance Company of Maine  
Medtronic  
Midwest Medical Insurance Company  
National Association of Health Underwriters  
NORCAL Mutual Insurance Company  
Northwest Physicians Mutual Insurance Co.  
Pennsylvania Medical Society Liability Insurance Company  
Physicians Insurance, A Mutual Company  
Physician Insurers Association of America  
ProAssurance  
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America  
State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company  
Texas Medical Liability Trust  
Tort Reform Institute  
VHA Inc.