



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

TREATING OUR FAMILY AND YOURS



June 26, 2017

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick  
U.S. House of Representatives  
514 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Fitzpatrick:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA), together represent nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, including the 8,721 DOs practicing in Pennsylvania. We write to express our support for the *Protecting Access to Care Act* (H.R. 1215), and strongly urge your support for this important legislation that would improve our nation's medical liability laws.

H.R. 1215 contains comprehensive medical liability reforms that are critical to bringing down health care costs and ensuring access to care for all patients. In addition, the bill protects states' rights by applying its provisions only in cases involving health care provided via the expenditure of federal funds, and provides substantial flexibility for states to adopt variations of these reforms in order to meet their unique circumstances.

The current medical liability climate represents a significant challenge to our nation's health care delivery system. It adversely impacts patient access to physician services, the patient-physician relationship, the overall costs of health care, and the training of the future physicians workforce. The AOA is dedicated to reforming our medical liability system to increase patient safety, ensure that injured patients are compensated quickly and fairly, improve patient-physician communications, and ensure affordable and accessible medical liability insurance.

Federal medical liability reforms will return fairness and equity to our medical liability system for both patients and physicians alike. Additionally, the Congressional Budget Office has determined that H.R. 1215 would reduce the national deficit by \$50 billion over 10 years.

The AOA and POMA believe that this is an important step toward improving the nation's medical liability system, and we thank you for your judicious consideration of this important legislation. The AOA, POMA, and our members look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Boyd R. Buser, DO  
President, AOA

George D. Vermeire, DO  
President, POMA