



## **POLL SHOWS AMERICANS WANT CONGRESS TO SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM**

### **Americans Believe Access to Health Care Threatened**

*By a huge margin, the American people want their elected representatives in Washington to support comprehensive medical liability reform, including reasonable limits on non-economic damages, according to a national poll of 1,001 adults. **Seventy-three percent of those polled indicated that they wanted their Senators and Representatives to support reform legislation, while only 19 percent opposed congressional action.***

The National Quorum poll of 1,001 Americans was conducted in March 2005 for the Health Coalition on Liability and Access by Harris Interactive. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.

According to the poll, most Americans believe:

**Elected Representatives Should Support Comprehensive Reforms:** Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of the Americans surveyed said they wanted their elected representatives in Washington to support comprehensive medical liability reform. Only 19 percent opposed such reform.

**Quality Health Care is At-Risk:** Nearly 8 in 10 (78 percent) of the people surveyed believe their access to affordable, high-quality health care is threatened because medical liability costs are forcing doctors out of medicine.

**Common-Sense Limits on Non-Economic Damage and Attorneys Fees are the Solution:** Americans strongly support (74 percent) full payment for lost wages and medical expenses and reasonable limits on awards for non-economic “pain and suffering.” By the same margin, they favor a law to limit the fees personal injury lawyers can take from an award or settlement.

**Malpractice Lawsuits Drive Up Costs for Everyone:** A strong majority (68 percent) of those polled said medical malpractice lawsuits are one of the primary reasons behind rising health care costs.

***SUPPORT COMMON SENSE MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM***