



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Poll Shows Americans Want Medical Liability Reform

Sixty-nine Percent Want Liability Reform Included in Health Care Reform Legislation

WASHINGTON, DC – Americans overwhelmingly support meaningful medical liability reform and agree that changes to our nation's broken medical liability system should be included in health care reform legislation passed by the Congress, according to a new poll released today by the Health Coalition on Liability and Access.

"The HCLA poll clearly shows that the American people want medical liability reform," said HCLA Chair Mike Stinson. "People across the country understand that the current system threatens their access to quality medical care and drives up health care costs for everyone.

"If Congress truly wants to reform our health care system, Senators and Representatives must answer to their constituents and include comprehensive medical liability reform to make the system more accessible and affordable for all patients," Stinson said.

In a National Quorum poll of 1,009 adults was conducted in October 2009. According to the poll 62% of those surveyed responded that they want their elected representatives in Washington to support national comprehensive medical liability reform legislation, and 69% believe that these liability reforms should be included in any health care reform legislation passed by Congress.

Further, 72% of survey respondents were concerned that a lack of doctors might impact the availability and quality of the care they receive. Seventy percent support a law that guarantees full payment for lost wages and medical expenses, but places reasonable limits on non-economic damage awards. And 68% favor a law that limits fees for personal injury lawyers.

The HCLA is committed to enacting immediate, effective federal medical liability reform, formalizing and codifying voluntary state demonstration projects on alternative reforms, in addition to ensuring that health care reform does not expand liability and encourage medical lawsuit abuse.

For complete poll results, visit www.hcla.org.

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EXPERTS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS -- CONTACT LAUREN SLEPIAN, 609-744-4794

For more details, visit www.hcla.org. The Health Coalition on Liability and Access is a national advocacy coalition representing doctors, hospitals, health care liability insurers, employers, health care consumers, and others. HCLA believes federal legislation is needed to bring fairness, timeliness and cost-efficiency to America's medical liability system.