



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACT
Lauren Slepian - 202.380.0616

Statement from HCLA Chair on Medicare and Medical Liability Reform

WASHINGTON, DC – HCLA Chair Shawn Martin issued the following statement regarding today's Congressional vote on Medicare:

"Today Congress will consider legislation pertaining to the so-called "trigger" provision of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. Complying with the law's requirements, the President has put forward legislation, which includes medical liability reforms, to address the Medicare funding issue. The Health Coalition on Liability and Access believes that medical liability reforms are a central part of reducing costs, and improving access and quality in the Medicare program.

"Medical lawsuit abuse drives up the cost of medicine for everyone. In fact, it's estimated that medical liability reform would save Medicare \$4.8 billion annually, not including savings from reductions in the practice of defensive medicine.

"Comprehensive medical liability reforms have a proven track record of success at the state level of reducing health care costs and increasing patient access to quality medical care. Controlling our nation's Medicare costs is one more reason American needs national medical liability reform."

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HEALTH CARE LIABILITY EXPERTS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS CONTACT LAUREN SLEPIAN, 202.380.0616

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