June 24, 2020

The Honorable Phil Roe, MD
United States House of Representatives
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lou Correa
United States House of Representatives
1039 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 7059, the Coronavirus Provider Protection Act

Dear Representatives Roe and Correa:

As the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance), our mission is to advocate for sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. As patient and physician advocates, the Alliance writes in support of your legislation, H.R. 7059, the Coronavirus Provider Protection Act, which would help protect health care professionals from the serious threat of COVID-19-related liability lawsuits.

Our nation’s medical liability system is broken — it costs too much, takes too long to resolve claims, and does not serve the needs of patients or physicians. The Alliance supports meaningful medical liability reform that reduces growth in health care costs, stabilizes professional liability insurance premiums, preserves access to specialty care, and encourages physician engagement in meaningful quality improvement.

We are grateful that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) incorporated important protections for volunteer physicians during the COVID-19 crisis. However, concerns remain related to potential medical liability. The limited and targeted protection from liability provided by H.R. 7059 will help ensure that health care professionals on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic can focus on helping patients without the fear of getting drawn into unwarranted lawsuits. While protecting those providing care in good faith, your legislation appropriately excludes liability protections in situations of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Thank you for your continued leadership in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and in support of health care professionals and the patients they serve. Please contact us at info@specialtydocs.org if we may provide additional information or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Retina Specialists
American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Association of Spine Specialists