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## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Medical Liability Reform Legislation Passes U.S. House Judiciary Committee

Rockville, MD (March 1, 2017) – PIAA, the leading association representing the medical and healthcare professional liability (MPL/HPL) insurance community, today praised the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary for passing the Protecting Access to Care Act (H.R. 1215)—the first significant medical professional liability (MPL) reform legislation to be approved by the Committee since 2011.

“The reformation of our medical liability system is critical for patients and their healthcare providers,” said Brian K. Atchinson, president and CEO of PIAA. “H.R. 1215 will help ensure fair and timely compensation to injured patients, improve access to patient care, and promote affordable and accessible medical liability insurance coverage. We applaud the House Judiciary Committee, especially Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and the bill’s sponsor Congressman Steve King (R-IA), for their efforts to repair our nation’s broken liability system.”

The Protecting Access to Care Act is similar to previous federal MPL measures: It is based on California’s MICRA statute—and includes caps on non-economic damages, limits on attorney contingency fees, periodic payment of future damages, and a statute of limitations. Unlike previous federal bills, however, the bill is focused solely on healthcare professionals and entities, includes detailed flexibility for states for all its reforms, and is linked with the expenditure of federal dollars, to address states’ rights concerns.

“These reforms will restore fairness and equity to our medical liability system for patients and healthcare providers alike. Equally important, they will result in notable savings for Americans,” continued Atchinson. “We thank PIAA members for their active role and support in helping to advance this important bill in the U.S. Congress.”

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*PIAA is the leading international association representing medical professional liability insurance companies, risk retention groups, captives, trusts, and other entities with a commitment to the quality delivery of healthcare. PIAA members insure more than 2 million healthcare professionals around the world—doctors, dentists, nurses and nurse practitioners, and other healthcare providers—including more than two-thirds of America’s private practicing physicians. PIAA members also insure more than 3,000 hospitals and 10,000 medical facilities.*