

KEY VOTE ALERT!

June 26, 2017

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform (ILR) urge you to support H.R. 1215, the “Protecting Access to Care Act of 2017” and oppose any weakening or hostile amendments that may be offered. The Chamber will consider including votes related to the bill in the 2017 How They Voted scorecard. H.R.1215 would help reduce unnecessary healthcare spending caused by a clearly broken medical liability system.

Medical liability continues to be an area in need of reform. Excessive costs incurred by litigating baseless lawsuits, which encourage defensive medicine, affect all Americans and cost the federal government billions of dollars in health expenditures. These costs have also made it harder for high-risk medical specialty practitioners to obtain reasonably priced medical liability insurance coverage in many parts of the country. As a result, some hospitals have been forced to close their doors completely or discontinue providing of some types of procedures, forcing patients to travel further, sometimes across state lines, for medical services, and in some circumstances forego needed care.

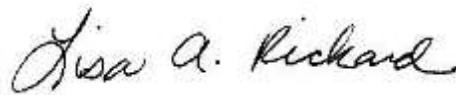
The costs associated with our current medical liability system also negatively impact American jobs. As healthcare costs increase, employers are forced to limit wage growth and hiring. Furthermore, companies are hesitant to locate and hire in areas with medical provider shortages, as it is difficult to attract and maintain necessary talent in these areas.

H.R. 1215 would make many reforms that would help reduce these excessive costs while allowing patients who were injured by negligent care to recover all of their economic losses, such as medical bills and lost wages. The bill would also allow for the recovery of reasonable non-economic damages. The Chamber and ILR urge you to support this legislation and oppose any hostile or weakening amendments.

Sincerely,



Jack Howard
Senior Vice President
Congressional and Public Affairs
U.S. Chamber of Commerce



Lisa A. Rickard
President
U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Congressional & Public Affairs
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20062
202-463-5600