



Protect the Front Line Medical Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Our nation's healthcare professionals and facilities are on the front lines of the biggest public health challenge in modern history. As they deliver care, they are faced with numerous risks:

- **Practitioner shortages** have required providers to treat patients outside their general practice area and prompted retired physicians to return to the workforce;
- **Inadequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE)** that could result in the transmission of the virus;
- **Inadequate supplies of essential medical equipment** (i.e., ventilators) which result in the rationing of care;
- **Insufficient testing** leading to delayed or flawed diagnosis;
- **Delayed treatment** of elective and non-COVID-19 healthcare; and
- **Sudden expansion of telemedicine services** to deliver non-emergency care.

These unprecedented circumstances drastically increase the chances that medical professionals and facilities will face unwarranted medical liability lawsuits in the years ahead. Although several states have tried to protect the healthcare community through executive decree and legislation, these state actions vary drastically and have resulted in a patchwork of liability provisions that will result in the unequal treatment of medical professionals depending on where they serve. Additionally, some states have been barred from waiving liability altogether despite the immense challenges that the medical community faces due to the pandemic. The *Coronavirus Provider Protection Act* would provide uniform, yet limited, civil liability protection to healthcare professionals and facilities that provide healthcare services in good faith during the national COVID-19 pandemic.

H.R. 7059, "Coronavirus Provider Protection Act"

- Protects health professionals and facilities for care provided during the national public health emergency and for 60 days following the termination of the emergency.
- Applies to care provided in good faith and within the scope of a professional's/facility's licensure or certification, even if it is outside the scope of their customary practice.
- Protects health professionals and facilities for care provided in accordance with government guidelines.
- Safeguards deviations from the usual standard of care resulting from a shortage of necessary resources and a desire to mitigate patient exposure to the coronavirus.
- Maintains protections for patients by exempting any acts of gross negligence or willful misconduct, or which demonstrate indifference to the patient's safety.

Support the Inclusion of H.R. 7059 in Congress' Next COVID-19 Relief Package

For more information, please contact our Government Relations Department at (301) 947-9000 or governmentsrelations@mplassociation.org.