



**MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL
LIABILITY ASSOCIATION**

May 29, 2019

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: S.1350, “Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2019”

Dear Senator Cassidy and Senator King:

On behalf of the more than 50 domestic medical professional liability insurer members of the Medical Professional Liability Association, I am writing to thank you for your leadership on S.1350, the *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2019*. This essential legislation will ensure that victims of federally declared disasters will have access to medical care following a catastrophic event.

Following national calamities like those that we experienced in recent years, injured Americans need access to adequate and timely medical care. Unfortunately, federal law does not adequately protect health care professionals who spontaneously volunteer their medical services during disasters, nor does it protect those volunteers who cross state lines to treat victims of these catastrophes. Complicating this matter, the current patchwork of state laws that aim to encourage medical volunteerism are ambiguous and inconsistent, especially when applied to large-scale disasters. These issues create an environment which may deter vital medical volunteers from providing much needed health care.

The *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2019* solves these problems by providing limited civil liability protections to licensed health care professionals who volunteer their time and skills to treat victims of federally-declared disasters. Additionally, the bill encourages enhanced cooperation between federal and state agencies, and promotes the use of volunteer registries like the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) to expedite the deployment of critical medical volunteers and resources in times of need.

We thank you again for your leadership role in addressing this matter before another major disaster strikes the United States, and for your efforts to draw your colleagues' attention to this issue. We look forward to working with you to build support for the bill in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'B. Atchinson'.

Brian K. Atchinson
President & CEO