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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PIAA Secures Legislative Protections on Medical Standards of Care

Rockville, MD (July 18, 2013) – PIAA, the international insurance industry trade association representing medical professional liability (MPL) insurance entities, today praised bipartisan action to ensure that federal healthcare regulations/guidelines do not alter the current standards of care in medicine. A provision protecting standards of care will be included in legislation whose intent is to replace Medicare’s Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula.

“PIAA initially promoted standard-of-care-protection legislation in 2009 during the healthcare reform discussions,” said Michael C. Stinson, Director of Government Relations. “Since that time, PIAA has advocated relentlessly for its enactment. Thanks to a coalition made up of PIAA member companies and medical organizations, we succeeded in gaining bipartisan support for both the original concept, and for the language in today’s legislation for fixing the SGR.”

The new provision derives from legislation introduced earlier this year by Congressmen Phil Gingrey, MD (R-GA) and Henry Cuellar (D-TX). PIAA worked closely with both Cong. Gingrey and committee leaders to draft the legislation and build support for it, prior to committee consideration. As a member of the Energy & Commerce Committee, which will soon consider the SGR reform legislation, Cong. Gingrey was instrumental in working with committee members on both sides of the aisle to gain support for the provision.

“This is a tremendous achievement for the entire medical community and a result of a determined education and outreach effort,” stated PIAA President and CEO Brian K. Atchinson. “Without persistent work and coordination between PIAA and its member companies who actively targeted this issue, as well as organized medicine, it is unlikely that this goal could have been achieved.”

“New approaches to reimbursement are key components of the changing healthcare environment,” Atchinson continued. “At the same time, it is critical to acknowledge that many of the elements within recently enacted federal healthcare laws are not valid criteria for determining medical liability—and we are pleased that Congress is poised to acknowledge this important distinction.”

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PIAA is the international insurance trade association representing medical professional liability insurance companies, risk retention groups, captives, trusts, and other entities. PIAA members insure more than two-thirds of America’s private practicing physicians and 3,000 hospitals as well as dentists, nurses and nurse practitioners, and other healthcare providers.