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PIAA Announces Creation of Industry Associate Membership Category  

Rockville, MD – June 2, 2011 – The Physician Insurers Association of America (PIAA), a national association representing healthcare provider-owned and/or -operated medical professional liability (MPL) insurance companies, today announced that it has created a new category of membership. The non-voting Industry Associate membership category has been developed for MPL insurance carriers that are not eligible for regular PIAA membership.

“Through the provider owned/operated companies that comprise our regular membership category, we represent more than 300,000 U.S.-based physicians and other healthcare providers—and opening our doors to MPL companies that don’t meet the criteria for regular membership has the potential to increase this number significantly,” said Lawrence E. Smarr, president of the PIAA. “This change is indicative of our steadfast commitment to healthcare providers and the patient safety movement. It will enable us to be more inclusive of the healthcare-provider population in the United States and indeed strengthens our voice on their behalf.” The PIAA will continue to be governed by its legacy provider-owned and/or -operated Regular Members, who have the right to vote at meetings of the members.

“The risk-mitigation tools and strategies developed by the PIAA and its member companies will now be available to more healthcare providers than ever before—and this is something that can have a real impact on the safe practice of medicine,” Smarr continued.

“The bottom line is that we want our membership to reflect all of those who have a common interest in providing a safe environment for patient care in America,” said Smarr. “The time has come for the PIAA to represent the entirety of the MPL industry. The creation of this new membership category makes this a reality.”

The PIAA Industry Associate membership category, which is a non-voting category of membership, was ratified on May 13 at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Members during the 2011 PIAA Medical Liability Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona.

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