FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Eric Anderson, Director of Public Relations & Marketing
301.947.9000, ext. 212 or eanderson@piaa.us

PIAA Lauds Senators Toomey (R-PA) and Carper (D-DE) for Introducing Standard of Care Bill in U.S. Senate

Rockville, MD (November 26, 2013) – PIAA, the insurance industry trade association representing the medical professional liability (MPL) insurance community, today praised Senators Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Tom Carper (D-DE) for their introduction of the Standard of Care Protection Act (S. 1769) in the U.S. Senate (on November 21). The legislation is virtually identical to H.R. 1473, a bill by the same name previously introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressmen Phil Gingrey, MD (R-GA) and Henry Cuellar (D-TX). Both bills would ensure that no federal healthcare provisions may be used to establish the standard of care in an MPL lawsuit.

"After advocating on behalf of this legislation for more than three years, we are gratified to see that legislators in both the House and Senate have determined, in a bipartisan consensus, that these protections for doctors, nurses, hospitals, and other healthcare providers are vital," said PIAA President and CEO Brian K. Atchinson. "We will continue our resolute effort to see that these protections become law."

According to PIAA Director of Government Relations Mike Stinson, the introduction of this bipartisan bill strengthens PIAA’s efforts to ensure that standard-of-care protections are included in the pending fix of the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula, because both senators serve on the Senate Finance Committee, which will develop the SGR package.

"Our members have done an outstanding job in helping these legislators understand the importance of this issue," Stinson said. "This bill is critical to ensuring that new quality and reimbursement standards being developed by the federal government will not open the door to new lawsuits against that nation’s healthcare professionals and institutions. This legislation will bring much needed peace of mind to every professional in the U.S. healthcare system."

"The next step in securing passage for the legislation will occur on December 12, when the Finance Committee will develop its formal SGR proposal," Stinson continued. "In the meantime, PIAA will continue working with members of the committee to vigorously support this legislation."

###

PIAA is the 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.