FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

PIAA-Championed Standard of Care Provision Included in Bipartisan Proposal to Reform Medicare’s Sustainable Growth Rate

Rockville, MD (February 7, 2014) – PIAA, the insurance industry trade association representing the medical professional liability (MPL) insurance community, today lauded House and Senate committee leaders for their support of a PIAA-backed provision that eliminates new opportunities for medical liability lawsuits based on quality and reimbursement standards being developed by the federal government. PIAA’s standard of care provision was part of a bipartisan proposal introduced yesterday by congressional leaders to reform Medicare’s Sustainable Growth Rate.

“PIAA has played a leadership role in advocating for legislative language to ensure that quality measures in Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act are not misused to establish new standards of care which plaintiff’s lawyers can use to file new medical professional liability lawsuits,” said Brian K. Atchinson, President and CEO, PIAA.

“With the federal government increasingly looking to new quality metrics to enhance the efficiency of our healthcare system, it is important that these metrics not provide an avenue for lawsuit abuse,” Atchinson continued. “The standard of care provision supported by PIAA will help ensure that healthcare providers do not face new lawsuits based on these federal standards.”

The Congressional announcement was made in a joint statement released by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-Mich.), House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Sander Levin (D-Mich.), House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.), and House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.).

“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,” stated Atchinson. “We will continue our resolute effort to see that these protections become law.”

###

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.