June 12, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Office of the Speaker
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.  20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

On behalf of the American Academy of Dermatology Association (Academy), which represents more than 13,500 dermatologists nationwide, I write to express the Academy’s support for H.R. 1215, the Protecting Access to Care Act, which would bring needed reforms to curb the rising costs and defensive medicine that result from the current medical liability system. The Academy urges all members of the U.S. House of Representatives to vote in support of H.R. 1215 when the bill is considered by the full House.

Earlier this year, in light of the consideration of health reform legislation, the Academy revisited and updated its Health System Reform Principles, which, among its principles, include support for medical liability relief. The Protecting Access to Care Act would achieve this goal by returning fairness and equity to our medical liability system for patients and dermatologists alike. This legislation would institute federal reforms that have been thoroughly tested in the states and that have proven successful in improving the medical liability climate in those states. At the same time, H.R. 1215 would protect those states that have enacted effective liability reforms and would provide substantial flexibility for states to adopt variations of these reforms in order to meet their unique circumstances.

Thank you for your leadership in the effort to address the rising cost of medical liability insurance and to help ease the burden of defensive medicine on our physicians. Again, the Academy is pleased to offer its support for the Protecting Access to Care Act, H.R. 1215, in this effort. If you have any questions, please contact Blake McDonald, Manager of Congressional Policy at bmcdonald@aad.org or 202-712-2608.

Sincerely,

Henry Lim, MD, FAAD
President, American Academy of Dermatology Association