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**Majority of Americans Support Medical Liability Reform Legislation**  
*New Poll Reveals Seventy-Five Percent of Americans Want Their Elected Representatives to Pass Comprehensive Medical Liability Reform*

Washington DC – Americans overwhelmingly support the passage of comprehensive medical liability reform legislation, according to an April National Quorum poll conducted for the Health Coalition on Liability and Access (HCLA). The poll results also indicate that seventy-six percent of the people surveyed would favor a law placing reasonable limits on non-economic “pain and suffering” awards.

*Christian Shalgian, Chair of the HCLA said, “It’s clear that the medical liability crisis is an issue that deeply concerns Americans. Members of the Senate must answer the call of their constituents and enact commonsense medical liability reforms to preserve patients’ access to care, and to allow doctors to continue to provide quality medical services.”*

The National Quorum poll of 1,001 adults was conducted in April 2006 to gauge Americans’ attitude on the nation’s ailing medical liability system. According to the poll, seventy-four percent of Americans believe their access to quality health care is threatened because medical liability costs are driving doctors out of practice. Sixty-four percent agree that medical lawsuit abuse is one of the primary causes of soaring health care costs.

In the first week of May, the Senate will consider comprehensive medical liability reform legislation during the Senate Health Week. This is not the first time Senators have had the opportunity enact vitally needed liability reforms. The House of Representatives has passed medical liability legislation ten times since 1995, yet reform initiatives have repeatedly stalled in the Senate.

The members of the Health Coalition on Liability and Access are united in their commitment to patient advocacy, and improving the health care system through prudent federal legislative reform. Shalgian adds, “Now is the time for the Senate to address the medical liability crisis and protect patients’ access to affordable and quality health care by passing reforms. We urge Congress to give this issue its due consideration and bring it to a fair up-or-down vote in the Senate during Health Week.”

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**HEALTH CARE LIABILITY EXPERTS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS  
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*For more details, visit [www.hcla.org](http://www.hcla.org). Health Coalition on Liability & Access is a national advocacy coalition of organizations representing doctors, hospitals, health care liability insurers, long-term care facilities, health care insurers, and other health care professionals. HCLA believes federal legislation, including reasonable limits on non-economic damages, is needed to bring fairness, timeliness and cost-efficiency to America's medical liability system.*