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Poll Confirms Americans Want Congress to Pass Medical Liability Reform Legislation *Americans Believe Access to Care is Threatened*

The American public understands that medical lawsuit abuse drives up health care costs and forces good doctors out of the practice of medicine, leaving patients without the care they need when they need it. That's why the majority of people want comprehensive medical liability reform to help control costs and preserve patient access to care.

According to the poll conducted in May 2011 by Harris Interactive on behalf of the HCLA, a wide majority of Americans believe:

Members of Congress Should Support Comprehensive Reforms: Fifty-eight percent of Americans surveyed said they wanted their elected representatives in Washington to support comprehensive medical liability reform, with a third (32 percent) strongly in favor and only 23 percent opposed to reform.

Quality Health Care is At Risk: Seventy-one percent of the people surveyed believe their access to affordable, high-quality health care is threatened because medical liability costs are forcing good doctors out of medicine.

Commonsense Limits on Non-Economic Damages and Attorneys Fees will Bring Down Costs: By a wide margin, 65 percent of Americans support full payment for lost wages and medical expenses and reasonable limits on awards for "pain and suffering." Sixty-three percent of those polled also favor a law to limit the fees personal injury lawyers can take from an award or settlement.

Medical Lawsuits Drive Up Costs for Everyone: Fifty-seven percent of poll participants said medical liability lawsuits are one of the primary reasons behind rising health care costs. Additionally, nearly half of respondents (46 percent) believe that there is abuse of the liability system and the number of medical liability lawsuits is higher than justified, while only 17 percent said the number of lawsuits is lower than is justified.

The National Quorum poll of 1,004 Americans was conducted in May 2011 for the Health Coalition on Liability and Access by Harris Interactive. The margin of error is +/- 3 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.

***Americans support medical liability reform and want action in Washington, DC
to help lower costs and preserve patient access to care.***