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New Poll Confirms Americans Want Medical Liability Reform

WASHINGTON, DC – Americans overwhelmingly support meaningful medical liability reform and agree that elected representatives should make changes to our nation's broken medical liability system, according to a new poll released today by the Health Coalition on Liability and Access.

“The HCLA poll clearly shows that the American people continue to support medical liability reform,” said HCLA Chair Mike Stinson. “Patients across the country understand that the current system threatens their access to quality medical care and not only drives up health care costs, but further adds to our nation's growing budget deficit.

“Senators and Representatives should answer to their constituents and move to support comprehensive medical liability reform, including the HEALTH Act, to make the system accessible and affordable for all patients,” Stinson said.

According to the poll, 58 percent of those surveyed responded that they want their elected representatives in Washington to support national comprehensive medical liability reform legislation.

Further, 71 percent of survey respondents were concerned that a lack of doctors might impact the availability and quality of the care they receive. Sixty-five percent support a law that guarantees full payment for lost wages and medical expenses, but places reasonable limits on non-economic damage awards. And 63 percent favor a law that limits fees for personal injury lawyers.

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.

For complete poll results, visit www.hcla.org.

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For more details, visit www.hcla.org. The Health Coalition on Liability and Access is a national advocacy coalition representing physicians, hospitals, health care liability insurers, employers, health care providers and consumers. HCLA believes federal legislation is needed to bring fairness, timeliness and cost-effectiveness to America's medical liability system.