

June 2, 2020

The Honorable Phil Roe
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lou Correa
1039 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Roe and Correa:

On behalf of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and our 40,000 members, I would like to express our support for H.R. 7059, the “Coronavirus Provider Protection Act.”

Emergency physicians are putting themselves at risk each day while facing tremendous challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, including inadequate safety supplies, scarce or changing information on treatment protocols, insufficient testing, and a lack of other essential resources needed to combat this disease. Despite these obstacles, we continue to go above and beyond, doing everything possible to treat the sick and bring comfort to others, often without regard for our own wellbeing.

The very health care professionals and facilities that are so dedicated to preserving and protecting the health of the American public should not face unwarranted legal action for our efforts to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, often under challenging conditions and limited resources. Yet, we still face the threat of medical liability lawsuits, which may come long after public memory of our sacrifices is forgotten, for outcomes that were frequently beyond our control, given that the normal standard of care is impeded by limited capacity and access to needed medication, equipment, or other resources and supplies.

America’s health care system cannot achieve maximum capacity and capability when we are asked to sacrifice so much while being simultaneously threatened with a future of numerous lawsuits based on this evolving pandemic. The “Coronavirus Provider and Protection Act” would establish valuable protections for care provided during the emergency, as well as 60 days following the termination of the emergency declaration; account for Federal, State, or local guidance or recommendations in response to COVID-19; and safeguard our treatment decisions that takes into account a lack of resources, including manpower, attributable to COVID-19. Furthermore, your legislation would exclude harm as a result of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and we look forward to working with you to enact this valuable legislation.

Sincerely,



William P. Jaquis, MD, MSHQS, FACEP
ACEP President

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