



February 14, 2018

Hon. Greg Walden
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone,

On behalf of over 34,000 orthopaedic surgeons and residents represented by the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and over 2,100 orthopaedic trauma specialists represented by the Orthopaedic Trauma Association (OTA), we commend the House Energy & Commerce Committee for taking up H.R. 1876, the *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017*, and we encourage you to report this important piece of legislation favorably out of committee. This federal bill is designed to provide liability protections to health care professionals, including physicians, who volunteer to help victims of federally-declared disasters.

Recent federally-declared disasters have highlighted the need for medical professionals who wish to assist those affected and that they not be turned away or limited in the scope of their assistance due to a potential medical liability lawsuit. While current state and federal laws provide some level of liability protections for licensed health care professionals, this legislation would fill remaining gaps and ensure that vital health care services – often provided by medical volunteers – remain available, all while respecting existing medical liability laws in individual states.

Again, the AAOS and OTA applaud your committee's interest in this important issue and we look forward to working with you to ensure final passage in the House of Representatives. Please feel free to contact Catherine Hayes, Senior Manager of Government Relations (hayes@aaos.org), if you have any questions or if the AAOS can serve as a resource to you.

Sincerely,

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
Orthopaedic Trauma Association