

**Statement for the Record of Representative Anna G. Eshoo on H.R. 1876, the
*Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017***
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Markup of H.R. H.R. 3477, H.R. 1876, and H.R. 4986
2123 Rayburn House Office Building
February 14, 2017

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this markup today on H.R. 1876, the *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017*.

When the Health Subcommittee held a hearing on this bill last May, I commended my colleagues for introducing good legislation that addresses a problem in the current system. Dr. Martin Levine was one of our witnesses and I recognized him for his heroic work as a first responder at the site of the Boston Marathon bombing. Dr. Levine pointed out flaws in the current liability system and this bill takes important steps to address them.

Since that hearing, our country has experienced numerous natural disasters including hurricanes, floods and wildfires. During these crises, we've seen Americans step up to offer their skills and resources and we owe them our support as they volunteer to care for those affected by disaster. As Dr. Levine described, these volunteers are aware of the current restrictions on their activity and they are at the forefront of their minds as they consider what they can and cannot do during a disaster. These brave volunteers should not have to worry that the good and necessary work they do will put them at risk legally.

The *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017* removes this legal risk. It ensures that healthcare professionals who leave their homes and their medical practices to volunteer in response to a disaster do not face undue liability, and that they are supported and encouraged in their volunteer work so they can focus on treating patients in their time of need.

I'm proud to support the brave men and women who, in the face of disaster, step up to assist their fellow Americans and we will honor them by passing this legislation.