



American Hospital  
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May 17, 2017

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
United States House of Representatives  
2266 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Blackburn:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our clinician partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to support the Good Samaritan Health Professional Act (H.R. 1876). By extending to licensed, volunteer health professionals the protective standards included in the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, your legislation takes important steps to help ensure victims have access to critical onsite medical attention during declared federal disasters.

This legislation is a positive step toward removing an impediment for physicians and other clinicians who would like to volunteer in another state during a disaster. While current state and federal laws provide some level of liability protections for licensed health care professionals administering health care services in response to a declared federal disaster, your legislation fills the gap in current law by extending liability protections to health care professionals crossing state lines to ensure people receive needed health care during such an emergency.

We are pleased to support this legislation and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve its passage.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Nickels  
Executive Vice President

