



July 26, 2005

The Honorable Phil Gingrey, M.D.  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gingrey:

The American Medical Group Association (AMGA) appreciates your introduction of H.R. 5, the HEALTH Act of 2005 that addresses the medical liability crisis and its adverse impact of patients' access to medical care. H.R. 5 carefully balances patients' rights against the need for affordable medical liability coverage.

A recent poll released by the Health Coalition on Liability and Access (HCLA) found that 73% of those polled wanted their elected lawmakers to support medical liability reform, while only 19% were in opposition. Almost seven of every ten Americans are aware of medical liability litigation's role in the rise in healthcare costs.

Additionally, the impact of excessively costly liability insurance premiums on patient access is becoming more apparent: specialists are restricting access, closing or relocating their practices and leaving some states without adequate medical specialty coverage for their residents.

AMGA represents coordinated/integrated multispecialty medical groups, some of the most prominent groups in the country. Our members are recognized for their provision of high quality, efficient care and their commitment to their communities' well being. Yet they too are struggling with unnecessarily excessive medical liability coverage costs that may eventually impact their provision of certain specialty care.

As you know, while some states are taking limited action on this issue, only a federal solution will be effective in containing rising costs and protecting medical care accessibility nationally.

Thank you for your action that protects medical care availability for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald W. Fisher".

Donald W. Fisher, Ph.D  
President and CEO