



February 14, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden:

As the Committee prepares to markup H.R. 1876, the "Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act," I am writing to express the Healthcare Leadership Council's (HLC) strong support for this important legislation.

HLC is a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within American healthcare. It is the exclusive forum for the nation's healthcare leaders to jointly develop policies, plans, and programs to achieve their vision of a 21st century healthcare system that makes affordable, high-quality care accessible to all Americans. Members of HLC – hospitals, academic health centers, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, laboratories, biotech firms, health product distributors, pharmacies, post-acute care providers, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

The recent disasters in California, Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico have raised awareness of the difficulty patients in these areas have had in accessing care. The Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act will help ensure that victims of natural disasters have access to medical care. By shielding them from liability, it supports health professionals who volunteer their time to assist in disaster areas. This bill will encourage more people to serve and will protect the care of vulnerable patients who need the assistance of trained professionals.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Witchey at (202) 449-3435 or dwitchey@hlc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary R. Grealy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary R. Grealy
President