



February 13, 2017

The Honorable Andy Barr  
1427 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
2209 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Barr and Cuellar:

The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines of the American healthcare system, strongly supports the "Saving Lives, Saving Costs Act." We appreciate your bipartisan cooperation for the advancement of common-sense, scientifically grounded medicine.

This legislation promotes the development, dissemination, and maintenance of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and encourages providers' adherence to those guidelines by establishing reasonable safe harbors in any related liability claims.

HLC advocates continuous quality improvement in our health system. This depends in part on guidance from evidence-based medicine. While medicine is both an art and a science, some of the variation in medical practice may put some patients at heightened risk and contribute to unnecessary procedures or tests. Clinical practices that lack a sound evidentiary basis also add to healthcare costs.

Likewise, the chances of liability lawsuits drive most medical professionals to practice defensive medicine, ordering medically unnecessary tests, diagnostics, and procedures. This is understandable given that three out of every four doctors are likely to be named in a liability suit, and tort litigation will loom for 51 months of the average physician's career.

*The New England Journal of Medicine* said, "Safe-harbor rules hold promise for realigning legal incentives with good medical practice and promoting fast uptake of proven modes of care." HLC wholeheartedly agrees. The "Saving Lives, Saving Costs Act" advances evidence-based medicine in connection with reasonable liability protection for foregoing defensive medicine and following the best available science.

The Healthcare Leadership Council commends the "Saving Lives, Saving Costs Act" and appreciates your leadership with this forward-thinking measure. This bill offers a tangible solution in a manner that deserves broad, bipartisan support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Grealy", written in a cursive style.

Mary R. Grealy  
President