March 15, 2011

The Honorable John Sullivan
U.S. House of Representatives
434 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
225 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Sullivan and Scott:

We, the undersigned organizations, are pleased to inform you of our strong support for H.R. 451, the "Healthcare Truth and Transparency Act of 2011." The 'Sullivan-Scott" bill is an important step toward ensuring that patients have accurate information regarding the education, training, and qualifications of individuals providing their health care services. A properly informed patient will be better prepared to make decisions about their health care.

Recent studies confirm increasing patient confusion regarding the many types of health care providers—including physicians, technicians, nurses, physician assistants and other allied providers—engaged in providing services in health care settings. All of these providers play an important and distinct role in the health care delivery system. However, ambiguous provider nomenclature and related advertisements and marketing are exacerbating patient uncertainty. Further, patient autonomy and decision-making are compromised by uncertainty and misunderstanding in the health care patient-provider relationship. By ensuring that patients have reliable information, your legislation would ensure that consumers are empowered to make decisions that are best for them and their family. Our organizations support a health care system where all health care providers fulfill a role in providing quality health care to patients.

Your legislation provides much needed resources and clarifications to address patient confusion in the health care marketplace. Also included are provisions that add modest, yet critically important, increases in resources to marketplace regulators, as well as enhanced transparency requirements regarding medical care. We believe your approach is consistent with other proposals that seek to increase transparency in the health care system and help all Americans become better consumers of health care services.

We applaud your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to call upon us or our members for assistance.

Sincerely,

Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Alaska State Medical Association
Arizona Medical Association
Arkansas Medical Society
Colorado Medical Society
Connecticut State Medical Society

Medical Society of Delaware
Medical Society of the District of Columbia
Florida Medical Association Inc
Medical Association of Georgia
Hawaii Medical Association
Idaho Medical Association
Illinois State Medical Society
Indiana State Medical Association
Iowa Medical Society
Kansas Medical Society
Kentucky Medical Association
Louisiana State Medical Society
Maine Medical Association
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society
Massachusetts Medical Society
Michigan State Medical Society
Mississippi State Medical Association
Missouri State Medical Association
Montana Medical Association
Nebraska Medical Association
Nevada State Medical Association
New Hampshire Medical Society
Medical Society of New Jersey
New Mexico Medical Society
Medical Society of the State of New York
North Carolina Medical Society
North Dakota Medical Association
Ohio State Medical Association
Oklahoma State Medical Association
Oregon Medical Association
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Rhode Island Medical Society
South Carolina Medical Association
South Dakota State Medical Association
Tennessee Medical Association
Texas Medical Association
Utah Medical Association
Vermont Medical Society
Medical Society of Virginia
Washington State Medical Association
West Virginia State Medical Association
Wisconsin Medical Society
Wyoming Medical Society

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pain Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Surgeons
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Medical Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Plastic Surgeons