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The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Blackburn:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing in support of H.R. 1733, the “Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2013.” This federal bill is designed to provide liability protections to health care professionals, including physicians, who volunteer to help victims of federally-declared disasters.

The medical profession has a long history of stepping forward to assist disaster victims. Thousands of physicians volunteered in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to help the victims with their medical needs. Unfortunately, needed medical volunteers were turned away due to confusion and uncertainty about the application of Good Samaritan laws. H.R. 1733 will help ensure that physicians who volunteer their services in future disasters will not face similar uncertainties, thereby allowing them to focus on providing aid to victims.

We applaud you for introducing the “Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2013,” and look forward to working with you to move this important bill forward.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD