



June 12, 2015

Congressman Charlie Dent
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Roy Blunt
260 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the Health Care Safety Net Enhancement Act (H.R.836/S.884)

Dear Congressman Dent and Senator Blunt,

The Emergency Department Practice Management Association (EDPMA) is one of the nation's largest professional physician trade associations focused on the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective care in the emergency department. EDPMA's membership includes emergency medicine physician groups, as well as billing, coding, and other professional support organizations that assist healthcare providers in our nation's emergency departments. Together, **EDPMA's members deliver (or directly support) health care for about half of the 136 million patients that visit U.S. emergency departments each year.** We work collectively and collaboratively to deliver essential healthcare services, often unmet elsewhere, to an underserved patient population who often has nowhere else to turn.

EDPMA is happy to endorse HR836/S.884, the "Health Care Safety Net Enhancement Act of 2015." We very much appreciate that these bills would provide emergency and on-call physicians who perform EMTALA-related services with temporary protections under the Federal Tort Claims Act. The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) requires hospitals to screen and stabilize all patients who arrive at the Emergency Department regardless of the patients' ability to pay. Emergency physicians who provide this required care often treat serious injuries and illnesses even though they have little or no relationship with the patient. Therefore, the physicians who provide EMTALA care have a much higher liability exposure including higher malpractice premiums. It is imperative that emergency physicians receive liability protection for the EMTALA services they provide to patients. It is simple common sense that they receive the same liability protections given to physicians who work in community health centers and free clinics. This legislation would help ensure that Americans continue to have access to a high-quality emergency care.

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Please feel free to contact Elizabeth Munding, EDPMA's Executive Director, at emunding@edpma.org or (703) 610-9033 if we can be of assistance in moving this legislation.

Sincerely,



Timothy Seay, MD, FACEP

Chairman, EDPMA Board of Directors