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CONTACT: Darren McKinney (202) 682-0084

HARRIS POLL OFFERS ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR
FEDERAL MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

Sixty-Five Percent Back 'Reasonable Limits' on Lawsuit Awards for Pain and Suffering

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 17, 2011 With H.R. 5, the “Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-Cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2011,” moving toward a floor vote in the House of representatives, the American Tort Reform Association, which last week issued a paper supporting the constitutionality of the bill, is now pointing to a new Harris Interactive survey that indicates the bill’s fundamentals enjoy popular support.

“The Harris findings show that nearly two-thirds of Americans support full payment for lost wages and medical expenses, along with reasonable limits on pain and suffering awards for those who are injured during the process of receiving medical treatment,” began ATRA president Tiger Joyce.

“Such strong support is likely attributable to the fact that better than seven in 10 Americans, according to the survey, believe their access to affordable, high-quality health care is threatened because medical liability costs are forcing good doctors out of medicine,” Joyce continued. “And nearly six in 10 believe excessive and unpredictable medical liability lawsuits are a significant factor in driving health care costs higher.

“All of which explains why 58% of Americans say they want Washington lawmakers to support comprehensive medical liability reform, while only 23% oppose such reform,” Joyce said.

The poll of 1,004 Americans was conducted earlier this month and commissioned by the [Health Coalition on Liability and Access](http://www.hcla.org/) (<http://www.hcla.org/>). Additional information about the poll is available [here](http://www.hcla.org/content/new-poll-confirms-americans-want-medical-liability-reform-0) (<http://www.hcla.org/content/new-poll-confirms-americans-want-medical-liability-reform-0>).

“The Harris poll makes the case for H.R. 5’s popularity, and ATRA’s [recent paper](http://www.atra.org/files.cgi/8590_Federal_Medical_Liability_Reform_Paper.pdf) (http://www.atra.org/files.cgi/8590_Federal_Medical_Liability_Reform_Paper.pdf) makes the case for its constitutionality and policy effectiveness. ATRA and its members urge House leadership to move H.R. 5 to a floor vote soon, and we hope it will receive overwhelming bipartisan support,” concluded Joyce.

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The American Tort Reform Association, based in Washington, D.C., is the only national organization dedicated exclusively to tort and liability reform through public education and the enactment of legislation. Its members include nonprofit organizations and small and large companies, as well as trade, business and professional associations from the state and national level.

101 Connecticut Ave, NW ■ Suite 400 ■ Washington, DC
(202) 682-1163 ■ Fax: (202) 682-1022 ■ www.atra.org