

May 12, 2010

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 the “Healthcare Truth and Transparency Act of 2010”. 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,

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
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 for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Plastic Surgeons