



**American Hospital  
Association**

Liberty Place, Suite 700  
325 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004-2802  
(202) 638-1100 Phone  
[www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org)

February 29, 2012

The Honorable Cliff Stearns  
United States House of Representatives  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Stearns:

On behalf of our more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 42,000 individual members, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to support the *Good Samaritan Health Professional Act* (H.R. 3586). By extending to licensed, volunteer health professionals the same protective standards included in the *Volunteer Protection Act of 1997*, your legislation takes critical steps to help victims have access to critical onsite medical attention during declared federal disasters.

This legislation is a positive step toward removing an impediment for physicians and other clinicians who would like to volunteer but are reluctant to respond to disasters due to concerns that they could be sued for malpractice. While current state and federal laws provide some level of liability protections for licensed health care professionals who are administering health care services in response to a declared federal disaster, your legislation fills the gap in current law by extending liability protections to health care professionals who are crossing state lines to ensure people receive needed health care during such an emergency.

We are pleased to support this legislation and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve its passage.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack  
Executive Vice President

