

ALLIANCE OF SPECIALTY MEDICINE



March 12, 2003

The Honorable W. J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Tauzin:

The undersigned members of the Alliance of Medical Societies are pleased to support the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2003, H.R. 663. Our physicians believe that we must create a health care environment that encourages continuous safety improvements through the education of health care providers. Your bill is an important step toward developing and ensuring such an environment, and we appreciate your leadership in addressing patient safety concerns.

Many principles that the Alliance supports are addressed in this legislation. First and foremost, establishing a non-punitive culture for reporting adverse events that focuses on preventing and correcting system failures is critical. It appears that your bill provides many of the important legal protections that are necessary to encourage the voluntary disclosure of medical errors.

On behalf of our organizations and the patients we serve, we urge Congress to pass this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American College of Cardiology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Association of Neurological Surgeons/ Congress of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Radiology
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Urological Association
National Association of Spine Specialists
Society of Thoracic Surgeons