



# Illinois State Medical Society

January 12, 2012

**SAMPLE COPY of letter sent to all U.S. Representatives representing Illinois.**

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 12,000 member physicians of the Illinois State Medical Society, I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 3586, the *Good Samaritan Health Professional Act of 2011*. This bipartisan legislation offers a sensible and much needed solution to eliminate the confusion and inconsistency that exists between the patchwork of federal and state laws for health professionals providing services during natural disasters.

Whether it is giving back in our communities or responding to calls for assistance after disasters, physicians consider volunteerism an important component of what defines our profession. Having medically trained doctors available to assist when disaster strikes is essential. In the last decade our nation has experienced several large scale disasters, which have fostered greater awareness of the need for a uniform immunity standard during catastrophic events.

H.R. 3586 would extend civil immunity protection to licensed health care professionals who volunteer during a declared natural disaster. It is important to note that protections would not apply if harm is caused due to criminal or deliberate actions. This law is truly intended to remove a barrier to health professionals hitting the ground when called on to assist our nation.

When H.R. 3586 is called for a vote, Illinois physicians urge you to respect the need for clear rules and civil liability protection during times of disaster, and to vote "aye."

Sincerely,

Craig A. Backs, M.D.  
Chair, Board of Trustees

cc: Wayne V. Polek, M.D.  
William N. Werner, M.D.  
Alexander R. Lerner