



American Urological Association

June 13, 2011

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The Hon. Tom Price, MD
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Price:

On behalf of the American Urological Association (AUA), which represents almost 95 percent of the 10,000 practicing urologists in the United States, I am writing to commend you for your ongoing efforts to protect the rights of physicians by introducing H.R. 969, the *Medical Practice Freedom Act of 2011*.

The recent overhaul of the United State's healthcare system has left great uncertainty in the healthcare market. As states are preparing to implement various provisions of the ACA, they are looking at how they can ensure physicians will participate in the new health plans they will be required to offer through the new state exchange program. As an example, there is a bill currently pending in Massachusetts that would require insurance carriers that offer health benefit plans to eligible small businesses and individuals to also offer an "affordable health plan." This bill would set the statutory reimbursement rate at 110 percent of Medicare rates. As a condition of their licensure, all healthcare providers with existing contracts with these carriers would be required to provide services to individuals under the "affordable health plans" and accept the mandated reimbursement rate.

Physicians must be protected from such practices by preserving their right to chose in which plans they participate, without fear of losing their licensure. Their choice should not be based on a government mandate that would condition licensure to practice medicine on participating in a particular plan, regardless of the plan's quality or mandated reimbursement rate.

Your proposed bill, the *Medical Practice Freedom Act of 2011*, H.R. 969, would ensure that a physician's right to chose is protected, by prohibiting the Secretary of Health & Human Services or any state from requiring, as a condition of licensure, that a healthcare provider participate in any health plan. Therefore, the American Urological Association proudly supports the *Medical Practice Freedom Act of 2011*.

We thank you so much for your leadership in protecting physician freedom and working to improve healthcare in America.

Sincerely,

Sushil S. Lacy, MD
President, American Urological Association

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