

**AMENDMENT TO COMMITTEE PRINT OF H.R. 1424
OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS OF TEXAS**

[As approved by the Subcommittee on Health]

At the end of the bill, add the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be necessary):

1 **TITLE II—HEALTH CARE**
2 **LIABILITY REFORM**

3 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 This title may be cited as the “Medical Justice Act
5 of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 202. CAP ON NON-ECONOMIC DAMAGES AGAINST**
7 **HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS.**

8 When an individual is injured or dies as the result
9 of health care, a person entitled to non-economic damages
10 may not recover, from the class of liable health care practi-
11 tioners (regardless of the theory of liability), more
12 \$250,000 such damages.

13 **SEC. 203. CAP ON NON-ECONOMIC DAMAGES AGAINST**
14 **HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS.**

15 When an individual is injured or dies as the result
16 of health care, a person entitled to non-economic damages
17 may not recover—

1 (1) from any single liable health care institution
2 (regardless of the theory of liability), more than
3 \$250,000 such damages; and

4 (2) from the class of liable health care institu-
5 tions (regardless of the theory of liability), more
6 than \$500,000 such damages.

7 **SEC. 204. CAP, IN WRONGFUL DEATH CASES, ON TOTAL**
8 **DAMAGES AGAINST ANY SINGLE HEALTH**
9 **CARE PRACTITIONER.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—When an individual dies as the
11 result of health care, a person entitled to damages may
12 not recover, from any single liable health care practitioner
13 (regardless of the theory of liability), more than
14 \$1,400,000 in total damages.

15 (b) TOTAL DAMAGES DEFINED.—In this section, the
16 term “total damages” includes compensatory damages,
17 punitive damages, statutory damages, and any other type
18 of damages.

19 (c) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—For each cal-
20 endar year after the calendar year of the enactment of
21 this title, the dollar amount referred to in subsection (a)
22 shall be adjusted to reflect changes in the Consumer Price
23 Index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department
24 of Labor. The adjustment shall be based on the relation-
25 ship between—

1 (1) the Consumer Price Index data most re-
2 cently published as of January 1 of the calendar
3 year of the enactment of this title; and

4 (2) the Consumer Price Index data most re-
5 cently published as of January 1 of the calendar
6 year concerned.

7 (d) **APPLICABILITY OF ADJUSTMENT.**—The dollar
8 amount that applies to a recovery is the dollar amount
9 for the calendar year during which the amount of the re-
10 covery is made final.

11 **SEC. 205. LIMITATION OF INSURER LIABILITY WHEN IN-**
12 **SURER REJECTS CERTAIN SETTLEMENT OF-**
13 **FERS.**

14 In a civil action, to the extent the civil action seeks
15 damages for the injury or death of an individual as the
16 result of health care, when the insurer of a health care
17 practitioner or health care institution rejects a reasonable
18 settlement offer within policy limits, the insurer is not, by
19 reason of that rejection, liable for damages in an amount
20 that exceeds the liability of the insured.

21 **SEC. 206. MANDATORY JURY INSTRUCTION ON CAP ON**
22 **DAMAGES.**

23 In a civil action tried to a jury, to the extent the civil
24 action seeks damages for the injury or death of an indi-
25 vidual as the result of health care, the court shall instruct

1 the jury that the jury is not to consider whether, or to
2 what extent, a limitation on damages applies.

3 **SEC. 207. DETERMINATION OF NEGLIGENCE; MANDATORY**
4 **JURY INSTRUCTION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—When an individual is injured or
6 dies as the result of health care, liability for negligence
7 may not be based solely on a bad result.

8 (b) MANDATORY JURY INSTRUCTION.—In a civil ac-
9 tion tried to a jury, to the extent the civil action seeks
10 damages for the injury or death of an individual as the
11 result of health care and alleges liability for negligence,
12 the court shall instruct the jury as provided in subsection
13 (a).

14 **SEC. 208. EXPERT REPORTS REQUIRED TO BE SERVED IN**
15 **CIVIL ACTIONS.**

16 (a) SERVICE REQUIRED.—To the extent a pleading
17 filed in a civil action seeks damages against a health care
18 practitioner for the injury or death of an individual as the
19 result of health care, the party filing the pleading shall,
20 not later than 120 days after the date on which the plead-
21 ing was filed, serve on each party against whom such dam-
22 ages are sought a qualified expert report.

23 (b) QUALIFIED EXPERT REPORT.—As used in sub-
24 section (a), a qualified expert report is a written report
25 of a qualified health care expert that—

1 (1) includes a curriculum vitae for that expert;
2 and

3 (2) sets forth a summary of the expert opinion
4 of that expert as to—

5 (A) the standard of care applicable to that
6 practitioner;

7 (B) how that practitioner failed to meet
8 that standard of care; and

9 (C) the causal relationship between that
10 failure and the injury or death of the individual.

11 (c) MOTION TO ENFORCE.—A party not served as re-
12 quired by subsection (a) may move the court to enforce
13 that subsection. On such a motion, the court—

14 (1) shall dismiss, with prejudice, the pleading
15 as it relates to that party; and

16 (2) shall award to that party the attorney fees
17 reasonably incurred by that party to respond to that
18 pleading.

19 (d) USE OF EXPERT REPORT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
21 vided in this section, a qualified expert report served
22 under subsection (a) may not, in that civil action—

23 (A) be offered by any party as evidence;

24 (B) be used by any party in discovery or
25 any other pretrial proceeding; or

1 (C) be referred to by any party at trial.

2 (2) VIOLATIONS.—

3 (A) BY OTHER PARTY.—If paragraph (1)
4 is violated by a party other than the party who
5 served the report, the court shall, on motion of
6 any party or on its own motion, take such
7 measures as the court considers appropriate,
8 which may include the imposition of sanctions.

9 (B) BY SERVING PARTY.—If paragraph (1)
10 is violated by the party who served the report,
11 paragraph (1) shall no longer apply to any
12 party.

13 **SEC. 209. EXPERT OPINIONS RELATING TO PHYSICIANS**
14 **MAY BE PROVIDED ONLY BY ACTIVELY PRACTICING PHYSICIANS.**
15

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—A physician-related opinion may
17 be provided only by an actively practicing physician who
18 is determined by the court to be qualified on the basis
19 of training and experience to render that opinion.

20 (b) CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED.—In determining
21 whether an actively practicing physician is qualified under
22 subsection (a), the court shall, except on good cause
23 shown, consider whether that physician is board-certified,
24 or has other substantial training, in an area of medical

1 practice relevant to the health care to which the opinion
2 relates.

3 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) The term “actively practicing physician”
5 means an individual who—

6 (A) is licensed to practice medicine in the
7 United States or, if the individual is a defend-
8 ant providing a physician-related opinion with
9 respect to the health care provided by that de-
10 fendant, is a graduate of a medical school ac-
11 credited by the Liaison Committee on Medical
12 Education or the American Osteopathic Asso-
13 ciation;

14 (B) is practicing medicine when the opin-
15 ion is rendered, or was practicing medicine
16 when the health care was provided; and

17 (C) has knowledge of the accepted stand-
18 ards of care for the health care to which the
19 opinion relates.

20 (2) The term “physician-related opinion” means
21 an expert opinion as to any one or more of the fol-
22 lowing:

23 (A) The standard of care applicable to a
24 physician.

1 (B) Whether a physician failed to meet
2 such a standard of care.

3 (C) Whether there was a causal relation-
4 ship between such a failure by a physician and
5 the injury or death of an individual.

6 (3) The term “practicing medicine” includes
7 training residents or students at an accredited
8 school of medicine or osteopathy, and serving as a
9 consulting physician to other physicians who provide
10 direct patient care.

11 **SEC. 210. PAYMENT OF FUTURE DAMAGES ON PERIODIC OR**
12 **ACCRUAL BASIS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—When future damages are award-
14 ed against a health care practitioner to a person for the
15 injury or death of an individual as a result of health care,
16 and the present value of those future damages is \$100,000
17 or more, that health care practitioner may move that the
18 court order payment on a periodic or accrual basis of those
19 damages. On such a motion, the court—

20 (1) shall order that payment be made on an ac-
21 crual basis of future damages described in sub-
22 section (b)(1); and

23 (2) may order that payment be made on a peri-
24 odic or accrual basis of any other future damages
25 that the court considers appropriate.

1 (b) FUTURE DAMAGES DEFINED.—In this section,
2 the term “future damages” means—

3 (1) the future costs of medical, health care, or
4 custodial services;

5 (2) noneconomic damages, such as pain and
6 suffering or loss of consortium;

7 (3) loss of future earnings; and

8 (4) any other damages incurred after the award
9 is made.

10 **SEC. 211. UNANIMOUS JURY REQUIRED FOR PUNITIVE OR**
11 **EXEMPLARY DAMAGES.**

12 When an individual is injured or dies as the result
13 of health care, a jury may not award punitive or exemplary
14 damages against a health care practitioner or health care
15 institution unless the jury is unanimous with regard to
16 both the liability of that party for such damages and the
17 amount of the award of such damages.

18 **SEC. 212. PROPORTIONATE LIABILITY.**

19 When an individual is injured or dies as the result
20 of health care and a person is entitled to damages for that
21 injury or death, each person responsible is liable only for
22 a proportionate share of the total damages that directly
23 corresponds to that person’s proportionate share of the
24 total responsibility.

1 **SEC. 213. DEFENSE-INITIATED SETTLEMENT PROCESS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—In a civil action, to the extent the
3 civil action seeks damages for the injury or death of an
4 individual as the result of health care, a health care practi-
5 tioner or health care institution against which such dam-
6 ages are sought may serve one or more qualified settle-
7 ment offers under this section to a person seeking such
8 damages. If the person seeking such damages does not ac-
9 cept such an offer, that person may thereafter serve one
10 or more qualified settlement offers under this section to
11 the party whose offer was not accepted.

12 (b) QUALIFIED SETTLEMENT OFFER.—A qualified
13 settlement offer under this section is an offer, in writing,
14 to settle the matter as between the offeror and the offeree,
15 which—

16 (1) specifies that it is made under this section;

17 (2) states the terms of settlement; and

18 (3) states the deadline within which the offer
19 must be accepted.

20 (c) EFFECT OF OFFER.—If the offeree of a qualified
21 settlement offer does not accept that offer, and thereafter
22 receives a judgment at trial that, as between the offeror
23 and the offeree, is significantly less favorable than the
24 terms of settlement in that offer, that offeree is respon-
25 sible for those litigation costs reasonably incurred, after

1 the deadline stated in the offer, by the offeror to respond
2 to the claims of the offeree.

3 (d) LITIGATION COSTS DEFINED.—In this section,
4 the term “litigation costs” include court costs, filing fees,
5 expert witness fees, attorney fees, and any other costs di-
6 rectly related to carrying out the litigation.

7 (e) SIGNIFICANTLY LESS FAVORABLE DEFINED.—
8 For purposes of this section, a judgment is significantly
9 less favorable than the terms of settlement if—

10 (1) in the case of an offeree seeking damages,
11 the offeree’s award at trial is less than 80 percent
12 of the value of the terms of settlement; and

13 (2) in the case of an offeree against whom dam-
14 ages are sought, the offeror’s award at trial is more
15 than 120 percent of the value of the terms of settle-
16 ment.

17 **SEC. 214. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS; STATUTE OF REPOSE.**

18 (a) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—When an individual
19 is injured or dies as the result of health care, the statute
20 of limitations shall be as follows:

21 (1) INDIVIDUALS OF AGE 12 AND OVER.—If the
22 individual has attained the age of 12 years, the
23 claim must be brought either—

24 (A) within 2 years after the negligence oc-
25 curred; or

1 (B) within 2 years after the health care on
2 which the claim is based is completed.

3 (2) INDIVIDUALS UNDER AGE 12.—If the indi-
4 vidual has not attained the age of 12 years, the
5 claim must be brought before the individual attains
6 the age of 14 years.

7 (b) STATUTE OF REPOSE.—When an individual is in-
8 jured or dies as the result of health care, the statute of
9 repose shall be as follows: The claim must be brought
10 within 10 years after the act or omission on which the
11 claim is based is completed.

12 (c) TOLLING.—

13 (1) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—The statute of
14 limitations required by subsection (a) may be tolled
15 if applicable law so provides, except that it may not
16 be tolled on the basis of minority.

17 (2) STATUTE OF REPOSE.—The statute of
18 repose required by subsection (b) may not be tolled
19 for any reason.

20 **SEC. 215. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY FOR GOOD SAMARI-**
21 **TANS PROVIDING EMERGENCY HEALTH**
22 **CARE.**

23 (a) WILLFUL OR WANTON NEGLIGENCE RE-
24 QUIRED.—A health care practitioner or health care insti-
25 tution that provides emergency health care on a Good Sa-

1 maritan basis is not liable for damages caused by that care
2 except for willful or wanton negligence or more culpable
3 misconduct.

4 (b) GOOD SAMARITAN BASIS.—For purposes of this
5 section, care is provided on a Good Samaritan basis if it
6 is not provided for or in expectation of remuneration.
7 Being entitled to remuneration is relevant to, but is not
8 determinative of, whether it is provided for or in expecta-
9 tion of remuneration.

10 **SEC. 216. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this title:

12 (1) HEALTH CARE INSTITUTION.—The term
13 “health care institution” includes institutions such
14 as—

- 15 (A) an ambulatory surgical center;
- 16 (B) an assisted living facility;
- 17 (C) an emergency medical services pro-
18 vider;
- 19 (D) a home health agency;
- 20 (E) a hospice;
- 21 (F) a hospital;
- 22 (G) a hospital system;
- 23 (H) an intermediate care facility for the
24 mentally retarded;
- 25 (I) a nursing home; and

1 (J) an end stage renal disease facility.

2 (2) HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER.—The term
3 “health care practitioner” includes a physician and
4 a physician entity.

5 (3) PHYSICIAN ENTITY.—The term “physician
6 entity” includes—

7 (A) a partnership or limited liability part-
8 nership created by a group of physicians;

9 (B) a company created by physicians; and

10 (C) a nonprofit health corporation whose
11 board is composed of physicians.