H.R. 6910 – ER Hero and Patient Safety Act – Draft Support Letter

Dear \_\_\_\_,

I am writing to you in support of due process protections for emergency physicians, which is a critical patient safety/quality of care issue in the practice of emergency medicine. Specifically, there is bipartisan federal legislation that was introduced in the 116th Congress ([H.R. 6910](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6910/text), The ER Hero and Patient Safety Act) that ensures that due process rights are protected for all emergency physicians.

This bill, which is supported by the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) and all prominent stakeholders in the specialty, will ensure that equal due process protections exist for emergency physicians regardless of who employs these doctors. The straightforward one page legislation will require the Department of Health and Human Services – through rulemaking – to extend due process rights to emergency physicians that are employed by a third party contractor.

While due process rights are well established in the practice of medicine and protected by the Constitution and healthcare statutes, it has become a common practice for emergency physicians to be forced to waive these rights as a condition for employment. This is bad for doctors, but it is worse for patients. When physicians are denied due process rights and can be terminated without the right to appeal through the appropriate channels on the medical staff, then the doctor-patient relationship is eroded and we can be pressured to make decisions based on cost, reimbursement, or other metrics that are not dictated by the best interest of the patient. In other words, we lose our ability to advocate for the patients that we are treating and to ensure that they get the best care – regardless of their age, ethnicity, gender, or ability to pay.

Without due process in our nation’s greatest safety net, physicians are unable to act as their patient’s best advocate. This is not in the best interest of our country’s healthcare system, especially in the wake of a devastating pandemic. For more resources on this topic, please visit AAEM’s [resource page](https://www.aaem.org/resources/key-issues/due-process) on this topic.

As an emergency physician and your constituent, I would be grateful for your support of this legislation. If you are interested in learning more about this legislation please feel to contact me at \_\_\_\_\_, and I will keep you updated on reintroduction efforts in the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

<Insert Name>

<Insert Address>