



August 25, 2005

Mr. Paul Barringer
Common Good
1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Barringer,

On behalf of the National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH), I want to applaud Common Good's effort to reform our nation's medical malpractice liability system through accessible state-based administrative health courts as an alternative to traditional tort reform, which typically just limits access to the court system. Additionally, thank you for bringing to NBCH's attention the Common Good's proposal to create health courts to restore accessibility, reliability and predictability to the medical justice system.

NBCH is very supportive of this concept but because the formal project description still is under development, we can only endorse Common Good's proposal provisionally at this time. Once a detailed project proposal is available, NBCH will reassess the project and make a determination about a formal endorsement.

The health courts concept is compatible with NBCH's policy position on medical malpractice reform in that it brings predictability, accountability and fairness to the medical liability system, as well as consistent standards of care resulting in improved health care safety and quality. In fact, we believe the "Fair and Reliable Medical Justice Act" introduced earlier this summer by Senators Michael Enzi (R-WY) and Max Baucus (D-MT) is a logical approach to furthering the health courts concept by providing funding for these special courts at the state level on a pilot project basis. State pilot projects established through this legislation would be an effective way to build support for and comfort with this new concept.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to learn more about the Common Good's health courts project. We look forward to learning more about the project as it progresses and sharing that information with our employer coalition members around the country. Though, given the unique perspective of NBCH's coalition members, NBCH does not claim that this position represents one way or another the position of its member coalitions, thereby freeing individual coalitions to proceed more or less aggressively relative to the health courts issue.

Sincerely,

Andrew Webber, President & CEO