

PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGES PASSAGE OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROPOSED HEALTHCARE BILL

WASHINGTON, DC (March 19, 2010) - The National Bar Association (NBA), founded on principles that include protecting the civil and political rights and pursuing justice for all people, recognizes the importance of equal access to healthcare and urges support for the proposed healthcare bill now pending in Congress. This Sunday, March 21st, members of Congress have the ability to take a significant step forward in protecting an essential right for all people --- the right to accessible and affordable healthcare. The passage of this historic bill will provide a multitude of benefits including expanding health insurance coverage to millions of Americans. NBA President Mavis T. Thompson stated, "As attorneys, taxpayers, consumers, and advocates of quality healthcare for all, we support President Obama's healthcare initiative pending before the Congress."

In September 2009, the NBA published a position statement endorsing President Obama's agenda for healthcare reform and offering its unwavering support for its passage. As tort reform is a matter of critical importance to its members, the NBA pledged to monitor and assess any provision on tort reform included in the final version of the bill. President Thompson has reiterated this position, "Tort reform is a significant issue that affects all members of the National Bar Association. We have begun a critical analysis of the provisions regarding tort reform provided in the bill and will prepare a statement as well as offer a seminar in the next few days to educate our members on how the tort form provisions will affect them and the practice of law. We understand the bill may not be perfect, but it is significantly better than the alternative - to do nothing."

The NBA remains committed to Obama's "call for action" in healthcare reform, and undeniably supports the principle of expanding opportunities for all Americans, especially within communities that are disproportionately affected by lack of adequate healthcare. The NBA continues to sustain its mission of advocacy by encouraging its members and the legal community to contact their local representatives and progressively move the tide of change towards equal opportunity for individuals, communities and generations to come.

Founded in 1925, the National Bar Association is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges. It represents approximately 44,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and has over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world. The organization seeks to advance the

science of jurisprudence, preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession. For additional information about the National Bar Association, visit www.nationalbar.org.

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