

COMMON GOOD

REFORMING AMERICA'S LAWSUIT CULTURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HONORS PHILIP K. HOWARD WITH PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

WASHINGTON, DC – March 30, 2004 – The American Medical Association (AMA) awarded Philip K. Howard, chair of Common Good, its Presidential Citation yesterday at the annual President's Forum in Washington, DC. In the citation, Dr. Donald Palmisano, President of the AMA, states:

“[F]or his outstanding work addressing medical liability reform to ensure that America's patients have continued access to high quality medical care.

For his tireless commitment restoring fairness to the tort system by informing a wide public audience about its harm to the patient-physician relationship, and raising awareness of the public and key decision-makers to the system's critical problems.

For his courageous dedication to thoughtful words – in his many speeches, books, articles, op-eds and public testimony – that pierce to the inner core of today's litigious reality with directness and clear insight, thereby sparking constructive change.

For his articulate and passionate advocacy for extensive reform of our broken medical liability system, which is causing physicians to retire early, limit services or depart their home crisis states, thus compounding access-to-care problems.

For his rational argument, clear thinking and relentless pursuit of specific fixes to the system that have helped galvanize public debate on the injustice of lottery-style legal judgments....

Therefore, I, Donald J. Palmisano, MD, JD, President of the American Medical Association, recognize the role played by Philip K. Howard in raising consciousness about, and furthering reform of, the medical liability system by honoring him with this presidential citation.”

Philip K. Howard, chair of Common Good, is also a noted attorney and best-selling author.

Common Good is a bi-partisan legal reform coalition dedicated to overhauling America's lawsuit culture. Its board is composed of leaders in a wide range of fields: former government officials, including Griffin Bell, Newt Gingrich, Eric Holder, George McGovern, Diane Ravitch, Alan Simpson, and Richard Thornburgh; current and former university presidents, including Tom Kean, George Rupp, and John Silber, and numerous other leaders in education, healthcare, law, business and public policy. The Chair of Common Good is Philip K. Howard, a lawyer and author of The Death of Common Sense and The Collapse of the Common Good.

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