



he U.S. House of Representatives has passed medical liability reform legislation numerous times in recent years. Unfortunately, the legislation continues to stall out in the Senate, where, at best, 49 senators have voted to allow consideration of liability reform (60 votes are necessary). After attempts to pass the bill in the Senate three times in two years, it became clear that the medical community needed to try a different approach. A mutual desire to break the Senate logjam was the impetus for forming a new coalition, Doctors for Medical Liability Reform (DMLR).

Last year, the American College of Surgeons Professional Association (ACSPA) helped to establish the DMLR. In addition to the ACSPA, founding members of the coalition included: Neurosurgeons to Preserve Health Care Access, the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American College of Cardiology. The American Academy of Dermatology Association, the National Association of Spine Specialists, the American Urological Association, and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons have subsequently joined the coalition.

The DMLR is using a variety of aggressive public relations and advocacy tools to highlight how the nation's out-of-control liability system is jeopardizing patient care in order to in-

In The Fight For Medical Liability Reform, Our Surgical Gloves Have Come Off.

Doctors and politics normally don't mix. But as surgeons, we will no longer watch Georgia's patients lose access to healthcare because Georgia's doctors can't afford out-of-control insurance premiums.

Not while U.S. Senators who could solve the problem choose to ignore it. We're the American College of Surgeons Professional Association. We're a founding member of **Doctors for Medical Liability Reform**, a coalition representing 230,000 physicians trained to achieve better medical liability reform in the U.S. Senate.

Watch for our TV newsmagazine airing on stations across the state about the lawsuit about that's crippling our lives across healthcare system.

For the whole story, visit ProtectPatientsNow.org. And call the numbers below to place your name on a petition asking your Senators and Senate candidates to sign this Pledge to support federal medical liability reform.

We believe the citizens of Georgia will choose doctors and jobs over lawyers and politics.

I Pledge to Protect Patients Now!

I, _____

do hereby pledge to support federal medical liability reform.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

DOCTORS FOR MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

DMLR

ACSPA

American College of Surgeons Professional Association

Albany 904-876-6224 Atlanta 404-524-6224 Augusta 706-732-6224 Charleston 803-733-6224 Columbia 803-733-6224 Savannah 912-437-6224

See the major media in Georgia and patients tell their stories at ProtectPatientsNow.org.
 770-275-0077 • 770-275-1100 • 770-275-1100 • 770-275-1100 • 770-275-1100 • 770-275-1100

← WASHINGTON STATE

IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING MORE BUSINESS IN WASHINGTON STATE:

Before You Move In, Look Who's Moving Out.

Before you make investment decisions to expand operations, add capacity, recruit employees or relocate to Washington state, the decisions should include the following:

- the existing quality of services, including emergency care; Washington's emergency response capabilities can be reduced for your work force and the business.
- Washington's medical malpractice and insurance and health care costs are high, being a significant source of economic hardship for groups.
- The **DMLR** coalition continues to demand enactment of "pass a bill that will" address issues with malpractice liability reform, like Washington.
- This can include enough insurance protection for all doctors, whether they're

even in our own state.

That's why thousands of doctors have the Washington and long-term cost of Tennessee to determine their own and their neighborhood states also. Many have left for Texas because of the state's Emergency system.

AN EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT OF PROTECT PATIENTS NOW IS OUR PLEDGE TO SUPPORT FEDERAL MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM. THAT CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.PROTECTPATIENTS.NOW.ORG AND YOUR SENATOR'S OFFICE.

Health care is one of the world's quality most essential to any place. Economic health relies on it. What is your business, once a quality employee and quality care environment?

a place that increasingly reduces the quality and quality of business and medical care services.

The quality of Washington's health care is high. It's a matter of U.S. Senators are holding together the state's legislative branch of government. Including Washington state's business they have established a goal.

A majority of Americans support the U.S. House for quality and health care. And your senators and candidates running for the U.S. House can sign a pledge to support federal medical liability reform.

And their job is to protect you in the state of Washington. Health care is one of the most essential to Washington state.

See the major media in Georgia and patients tell their stories at ProtectPatientsNow.org.
 770-275-0077 • 770-275-1100 • 770-275-1100 • 770-275-1100 • 770-275-1100 • 770-275-1100

Examples of ads used in the DMLR Protect Patients Now campaign.

crease public support for federal medical liability reform and gain the support of all candidates for national office.

Television news magazines

The DMLR campaign, referred to as Protect Patients Now, began this past February. The Protect Patients Now initiative features 30-minute news

magazines that are currently airing on cable television throughout four states—North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, and Washington. These states were chosen because they are in the midst of a serious medical liability crisis and they are each having a U.S. Senate election in November. While the Washington State race is between a sitting senator and a member of Congress, the Geor-



I Pledge to Protect Patients Now!

I recognize that the citizens of the state of _____ and across the country are facing an unprecedented healthcare crisis.

Skyrocketing medical liability insurance premiums caused by escalating and unlimited jury awards are forcing doctors to limit services, retire early, abandon patients or move to a friendlier state, creating a vacuum of care where patients no longer have access to critical medical services.

As a U.S. senator or candidate for U.S. Senate with the public interest at heart, I,

_____,
pledge that I will unequivocally support medical liability reform in the United States Senate seeking passage of federal legislation that would include an effective limit on non-economic damages, also known as "pain and suffering."

This cap will not limit economic compensation awarded for lost income, inability to work, long-term care or medical expenses.

Signature

Print Name

Date

Pledges must be signed, dated and returned to:

Doctors For Medical Liability Reform
2121 K Street NW, Suite 325
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: 703.299.9470 Fax: 703.299.9478

The pledge that DMLR is asking politicians to sign.

gia, North Carolina, and South Carolina races are open seats, guaranteeing that new U.S. senators will be elected in those states this November. It is of critical importance that the senators elected in all four states support federal medical liability reform.

The news magazines feature physicians and patients telling the story of how the medical liability crisis is affecting access to medical care in their community. Physicians from a variety of specialties tell of how they are being forced to retire early, move to other states, or limit the medical services they offer. Patients and family members relate their stories about how loved ones suffered irreversible damage because a physician was unavailable, because their doctor moved out of state, or how they were unable to find a specialist.

Web site

While each news magazine is only being aired in the specific state for which it was produced, everyone can view all four news magazines on the DMLR Web site, www.protectpatientsnow.org. In addition, a video featuring highlights from all four state news magazines is available on the Web site. Physicians and patients can download the videos and share the files with other individuals.

The news magazines include a request for individuals to contact their senators and representatives and the candidates for these offices urging them to support federal medical liability reform. The DMLR Web page allows individuals to e-mail their senators and representatives with this important request.

Twenty states are currently experiencing a medical liability crisis, while only seven states are considered to be "safe" states. The remaining 23 states are potentially headed for a crisis. A detailed breakdown of how each state is affected by this problem is also available on the DMLR Web site.

Pledge

In an effort to identify which senators, representatives, and candidates for office are willing to support federal medical liability reform, the DMLR is asking all of them to sign a pledge (see opposite page). The list of individuals who have signed the pledge can be found on the DMLR Web site.

Grassroots teams

In each of the four states, the DMLR has created grassroots teams of physicians and patients who are meeting with public officials and the media to help drive home the messages put forth in the news magazines. Surgeons from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Washington who are available to help with this effort should contact the ACSPA Washington Office at 202/337-2701.

Newspaper advertisements

DMLR has also been running various newspaper advertisements focused on the need for federal medical liability reform. The advertisements demonstrate the effect that the medical liability crisis is having on the economy of the states that are in crisis. In addition, ACSPA ran newspaper advertisements in Georgia and South Carolina announcing the launch of the Protect Patients Now campaign.

The DMLR will continue to run the news magazines throughout the fall. Surgeons are encouraged to visit the Web site www.protectpatientsnow.org to keep abreast of the DMLR's activities. 