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NEWS RELEASE

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Families and Victims of Medical Malpractice Request Urgent Meeting with George W. Bush

In a letter sent today to President Bush, victims and families whose babies were victims of medical malpractice committed by doctors whom Bush has recently used during campaign stops, called for an immediate meeting with Bush. The victims of Dr. Compton Girdharry of Ohio, and Dr. Sara McBee of Arkansas, both of whom were used by Bush to campaign for limits on the legal rights of medical malpractice victims, said: "Each of us brought a lawsuit against our negligent doctor because he or she provided terribly poor care, far below acceptable standards. Our cases were neither 'junk' nor 'frivolous.' We would like to show you why victims of medical malpractice should not be blamed for malpractice insurance problems that doctors are experiencing."

While appearing in Ohio last month, President Bush called on stage Dr. Girdharry, an OB/GYN who had settled approximately eight medical malpractice lawsuits brought by people injured and families of children injured or killed due to his medical care. Today, three of those families asked for the meeting with President Bush.

When the doctor's legal history was covered in the *New York Times* on June 18, 2004, the White House responded that "Had this doctor provided that information, he would not have been at that event."

But, earlier this year, President Bush appeared with another OB/GYN in Arkansas, Dr. McBee, who was also in a malpractice lawsuit brought by a couple whose child was severely injured while in her care. That doctor says that President Bush knew of the case when he said that her rising premiums and decision to stop practicing were the "direct result of too many junk lawsuits." Dr. McBee subsequently agreed to pay the family \$1 million to settle their case against her.

A copy of the letter is attached.

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