

August 24, 2006

Dear Governor Blagojevich and members of the Illinois State Legislature:

We, or our family members, are Illinois residents that have been injured or killed as a result of medical malpractice.

One year ago, Governor Blagojevich signed into law SB 475, legislation that imposed caps on compensation for victims of medical malpractice. We now respectfully request that you repeal this cruel law, which hurts innocent Illinois citizens and has done nothing to reduce doctors' insurance costs.

At the time you were considering this cruel legislation, many patients urged you to reject it because of its devastating impact on families who have experienced severe injury or the loss of a loved one as a result of medical malpractice. Now that one year has passed, it is clear that we were right to oppose this law. While a nightmare for injured patients, its enactment was a political coup for the insurance industry.

No sooner did this bill pass than, ISMIE, Illinois largest insurer, went forward with a rate increase that the Division of Insurance (DOI) called "problematic." DOI then ordered that these rates be reduced by 3.5% after DOI investigated the company's ratemaking structure. Clearly, the cap on damages did nothing to reduce rates, which never would have dropped had DOI not ordered this. In the meantime, patients have needlessly suffered as a result of this unconstitutional law.

Compensation limits are harmful, ineffective, and unconstitutional. We respectfully urge you to protect the citizens of Illinois and repeal this law immediately.

Sincerely,

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Chicago, IL

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West Salem, IL

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