

PATIENTS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET THE HEALTH CARE THEY NEED.



Our health care system is in crisis.

An out-of-control lawsuit system is forcing doctors across the country to cut back services or abandon their practices. Patients are suffering.

Across the country, more and more patients are finding it harder to get access to vital medical services. Media coverage illustrates the scope of this growing crisis.

“In one 6,000-sq.-mi. expanse of Arizona, high malpractice premiums have prompted six obstetricians to stop delivering babies. Many women now have to drive an hour or more to reach a hospital with a delivery room, forcing several women... to give birth in the car en route to the hospital. Seniors in parts of Pennsylvania travel an hour or two to see a neurosurgeon, and one orthopedic surgeon from Philadelphia commutes every week to see patients in the Midwest, where malpractice insurance costs are lower.”
— *Time*, June 9, 2003.

“Desert Springs Hospital will shut down its maternity center at the end of the summer because the facility has lost more than half its obstetricians.”
— *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, May 24, 2003.

“Several Puget Sound-area hospitals have no neurosurgeons this weekend and will have to transfer patients with back, neck and head emergencies to other hospitals — a scramble brought about because a large surgical group lost its malpractice insurance.”
— *Seattle Times*, June 7, 2003.

“The physicians of Tallahassee — those who deliver babies, save auto-accident victims, operate on hearts and bones, read mammograms and treat the elderly and indigent — are being squeezed by high medical-malpractice premiums. As a result, doctors are weighing every day whether to stay in practice and in town. Some say shortages already exist in critical areas such as general surgery.”
— *The Tallahassee Democrat*, June 15, 2003.

The U.S. Senate can make a difference!

Support medical liability reform efforts to make sure patients get the care they need when they need it.

HCLA
Health Coalition on Liability and Access

To learn more about the health care liability crisis, visit www.hcla.org

Paid for by the Health Coalition on Liability and Access