



Anesthesia Consultants of Indianapolis

Advanced Practice. Enhanced Care.

February 26, 2016

Dear Honorable Indiana State Representative:

My name is Alexander Choi, MD. I am writing to you as the President of the Indiana Society of Anesthesiologists and also as the President and Managing Partner of Anesthesia Consultants of Indianapolis, the largest anesthesia practice and the second-largest physician private practice in the state. I wanted to express that the over 800 physician anesthesiologists in Indiana and nearly 100 physician anesthesiologists in my practice are very concerned about SB 28, a bill to increase the medical malpractice cap.

Currently Indiana enjoys a very physician-friendly environment that allows us to recruit and retain some of the best physicians in the country. One important component of that is the state's medical malpractice environment. The reasonable malpractice insurance expense that this has created allows Indiana to be competitive in being able to provide excellent patient care to urban, rural and other underserved areas in the state.

Because of changes due to the Affordable Care Act and to Medicare reimbursements, physicians are continuing to make only very small increases and oftentimes face decreases in income while being asked to put in more hours. In the future, physician reimbursements are predicted to further decrease rather than increase because of recent changes enacted by Congress. In Indiana, these challenges are offset by the favorable cost of living, positive business environment and, most importantly, the reasonable medical malpractice act. Changes to the medical malpractice act, I fear, will put undue burden on many of our physicians, especially in urban and rural areas where reimbursements are below those of the rest of the state. This may lead to early retirements or physicians leaving their communities and therefore diminish patient care in these areas.

I applaud Indiana's legislators in creating a very positive business environment over the past several years. I ask at this time for you to assist Indiana's physicians, many of whom are considered small business owners with significant economic impact in the communities in which they serve. I would therefore implore you to support the position of the ISMA and Indiana Chamber which are asking for a reasonable, responsible increase to the damages cap of \$400,000 and no future automatic increase adjustments.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments at (317) 997-1725.

Respectfully,

Alexander Choi, MD
President and Managing Partner