The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Alabama \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Montgomery, AL.

Re: Medical Malpractice Tort Reform in Alabama

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Medical Malpractice tort reform in Alabama is long overdue. The majority of states in the United States have some type of medical malpractice reform. In fact, almost every surrounding state has some type of reform. All Alabama healthcare providers need some type of protection from the “nuclear” verdicts that have been awarded throughout the Country, including Alabama. In the last year, Alabama juries have awarded well over $10 million dollars to plaintiffs and their attorneys on numerous occasions. This trend doesn’t seem to be stopping any time in the near future.

Healthcare providers are already dealing with staff challenges and low reimbursements which have had an extremely negative impact on providers’ bottom lines. While the majority of a large negative verdict may be covered by insurance, it has now become common practice for plaintiff attorneys to go after the healthcare providers assets after the limits of insurance have been exhausted. As a result, one “nuclear“ verdict could completely close a providers practice or shut the doors of most hospitals in the state. As the verdicts increase in frequency and severity, we will see healthcare providers leave Alabama to go practice in a state where they are protected.

People that have been harmed by the negligence of a healthcare provider need to, and should be, fairly compensated. However, they should not win the health care lottery. Some type of medical malpractice tort reform in Alabama will keep providers here and help our state compete with other states for top quality providers. It’s time to focus on sustaining quality healthcare in Alabama rather than making sure that the medical malpractice personal injury lawyers get richer.

Please consider this as a request to begin discussing medical malpractice tort reform in Alabama before it is too late.

Sincerely,

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