



ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Devoted to Advocacy, Education & Action

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January 26, 2017

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American Academy of Family Physicians

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Alvia Siddiqi, M.D.

Dear Dr. Meigs:

Treasurer

Michael A. Hanak, M.D.

On behalf of the Illinois chapter Board of Directors, I'm writing to ask AAFP once again undertake advocating for federal tort reform.

First Vice President

Sachin Dixit, M.D.

We know AAFP considers medical liability reform a high priority. And it still stands that today's medical liability system fails both patients and physicians. It is needlessly subjective and shamefully costly. Too many of the medical liability lawsuits filed are frivolous, and too few of those injured by medical care actually receive compensation. Excessive damage awards, rising malpractice premiums and defensive medical practices have greatly contributed to increases in health care spending with scant value added.

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In the past, AAFP has supported efforts to find alternatives to the current medical tort system. The new Administration signals an opportunity to explore again alternatives to demonstrate how to more equitably and quickly compensate those truly injured in the course of medical care without needlessly diverting health care dollars. To cite AAFP's own information: *According to the CBO, AAFP's proposals for tort reform could lower costs for health care both directly and indirectly by lowering premiums for medical liability insurance and by reducing the use of diagnostic tests and other health care services recommended principally to minimize the potential exposure to lawsuits. The CBO analysis released on October 9, 2009, estimates that implementing tort reform nationwide would reduce both total U.S. health care spending by about 0.5 percent (about \$11 billion in 2009) and federal budget deficits by roughly \$54 billion over the next 10 years. CBO acknowledged studies which concluded that tort reform generated no significant adverse outcomes.*

Resident

Jessica Reader, M.D.

Please engage our members across the country, as you have on the debate over how we can best provide affordable, high-quality health care to all Americans. In a similar fashion, advocate for a fair and equitable medical-legal environment that protects patients *and* family physicians.

Student

Emily Graber

AAFP Delegates

David J. Hagan, M.D.
Asim K. Jaffer, M.D.

Thank you for considering our request,

AAFP Alternate Delegates

Sachin N. Dixit, M.D.
Alvia Siddiqi, M.D.

Donald R. Lurye, MD, MBA, CPE

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President