

A message to physicians: We need your help

She's your patient. What if it's cancer?



Will there be a specialist to send her to?

Preserve Patient Care: Support Medical Liability Reform

- Maine is on the brink of a medical malpractice crisis that threatens your ability to treat your patients most appropriately and refer them to specialists.
- Maine already has a serious shortage with the ratio of physicians per 1000 patients significantly below the national average.
- 86% of osteopathic students said the malpractice crisis would affect where they practiced.
- A federal study showed that states with limits on non-economic damages have 12% more physicians per capita than states that don't.
- Medical Mutual Insurance Company of Maine, the largest physician malpractice insurance company in Maine raised its rates by 25 percent, but some specialties saw even higher increases.
 - Emergency medicine 78%
 - Oncologists 61%
 - Podiatrists who do surgery 77%
 - Family practice with obstetrics 46%
- Increases like this drive doctors out of business and discourage new doctors from locating to Maine and hinder access to care.

What can you do?

- Talk to your patients about the problem and ask them to sign up.
- Tell lawmakers that the crisis hurts your patients and your ability to treat them appropriately.
- Explain how high malpractice rates will soon mean that Maine has a physician shortage.
- Sign up at www.ProtectMEpatientsNow.org for more information and to share your story.

Maine Coalition for Healthcare Access

A coalition advancing medical liability reform to preserve access to physician services, improve the affordability of healthcare, and ensure high quality care in Maine