

THE MEDICAL LIABILITY CRISIS **DAMAGES HOSPITALS AND COMMUNITIES**

- Like good schools, high quality medical and hospital care are essential to an area's economic health. Reputable health and education services are imperative to industrial and business leaders as they select a community for location.
- Good health is key to the productivity of the labor force. Employees also want their families to have readily accessible, high quality care close to where they live and work.
- Loss of physicians, restriction of services, and the steep costs of medical liability insurance lead to inevitable layoffs of hospital and physician employees.

Hospitals keep the state and local economies strong as engines of sustained growth for communities:

- Hospitals are one of the top 3 employers in 48 of Illinois' 102 counties. They employ more than 237,000 people and pay more than \$10.2 billion a year in salaries and benefits
- Hospitals provide \$1.2 billion every year in uncompensated care – essential health care services for people who have no insurance or are underinsured and are unable to pay for their care
- Every dollar a hospital spends on salaries and goods and services puts more money into the local and state economies.
- So, when excessive medical liability insurance rates force doctors to leave a community, the impact is not just medical professionals making personal decisions to go elsewhere. Their exodus has profound economic implications for the local health care system and the entire community – including service workers, janitors, construction workers and others whose livelihoods are connected to the well being of the local health care system.
- If the current medical liability problem continues to wreak havoc on the healthcare sector, Illinois communities will see the erosion of this critical base of their local economies.

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