



Illinois Hospital Association

**STATEMENT OF KENNETH ROBBINS
PRESIDENT, ILLINOIS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
RE: MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM AGREEMENT
May 25, 2005**

The Illinois Hospital Association and the more than 200 hospitals it represents applaud the Democratic and Republican leadership of the Illinois Senate and House for working with the health care community to develop a legislative proposal to solve the medical liability crisis.

This is an historic and significant agreement that will restore predictability to Illinois' broken liability system that has been driving costs for hospitals and physicians to unsustainable levels and that has jeopardized the state's health care system.

This comprehensive proposal includes several critical reforms, including:

- Caps on non-economic damages (\$500,000 for physicians; \$1 million for hospitals);
- Structured awards to more efficiently provide for future medical care of injured plaintiffs and reduce medical liability costs (e.g., periodic payments such as annuities, rather than lump sum payments);
- Insurance regulations;
- Strengthened physician disciplinary regulations.

We urge members of the House and Senate to enact this legislation so Illinoisans will continue to have access to the quality medical care they need.

The Illinois Hospital Association, with offices in Naperville and Springfield, is an advocate for more than 200 Illinois hospitals and health systems and the patients and communities they serve.