

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

It is no secret that Kentucky suffers from one of the nation's most litigation-friendly environments. Failure to enact even the most basic liability reforms, like those passed by many other states, makes the Commonwealth a target for personal injury lawyers who get rich by preying upon Kentucky caregivers.

Senate Bill 6 addresses concerns with medical liability reform.

THE ISSUE

Kentucky caregivers practice every day with a target on their backs.

Lacking any meaningful liability protections, Kentucky caregivers face one of the nation's most litigation-friendly environments, driving up insurance rates and increasing the cost of care for everyone.

- More than half of all physicians—and nearly all specialists—will face a lawsuit in their career.
- The U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform ranked Kentucky 39th in terms of its legal climate.

THE PROBLEM

Kentucky is at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to attracting and keeping the best caregivers because of its litigation-friendly environment.

Legislators, businesses and caregivers have spent decades pushing for meaningful liability reform, only to be stymied by partisan obstacles and big-spending personal injury lawyers.

- A recent state government-commissioned study performed by Deloitte to assess Kentucky's health care workforce capacity clearly stated that a lack of liability reform was a significant factor in the state's well-known provider shortage.
- Medical Review Panel legislation, proven successful in many other states, has passed the Kentucky State Senate on multiple occasions, but has yet to even receive a vote in the State House.

THE SOLUTION

It is time for Kentucky to enact liability reform to improve both the medical and business climates and protect caregivers from meritless lawsuits.

This will finally remove the targets from the backs of our caregivers and allow them to put their focus where it belongs—on patients, not lawsuits.

- Medical liability reform can be passed within the constitutional limitations outlined by the Kentucky Supreme Court.
- Common sense reform would dissuade purely frivolous lawsuits and protect hardworking caregivers from costly litigation.

Passing meaningful medical liability reform legislation (Senate Bill 6) would maintain due process for all, reduce the number of meritless claims against caregivers and help attract the new caregivers Kentucky so desperately needs.