

Dear all:

SB 415, the tort reform bill, is up before the Senate Insurance Committee tomorrow morning at 8 am.

SB 415 does the following:

- Improves the state's failing tort environment that negatively impacts patients and physicians;
- Eliminate "phantom damages" (the difference between what a patient is billed and what they pay for their care, which can translate into much higher medical malpractice awards);
- Change the state's 'Civil Practice Act' to improve and streamline the process for physicians and small businesses that are involved in lawsuits;
- Establish guidelines for what a judge needs to consider when they decide whether to bifurcate a trial;
- Includes other legal reforms (e.g., premises liability reform and seat belt admissibility).

SB 415 is important is needed for the following reasons:

- 76 counties in Georgia lack an OB-GYN. One of the reasons Georgia has a hard time recruiting and retaining OBs is because of our known hostile legal climate for physicians;
- Georgia ranks sixth on the 'Judicial Hellholes' Top 10 list for 2019-2020;
- Georgia is near the bottom (41st) of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 'Lawsuit Climate Survey' for 2019.

Please contact the following three (3) members of the Senate Insurance Committee and ask them to SUPPORT SB 415 by 8 am tomorrow morning.

- [Martin IV, P. K.](mailto:p.k.martin@senate.ga.gov) - p.k.martin@senate.ga.gov
- [Robertson, Randy](mailto:randy.robertson@senate.ga.gov) - randy.robertson@senate.ga.gov
- [Walker, III, Larry](mailto:larry.walker@senate.ga.gov) - larry.walker@senate.ga.gov

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