



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Beth Weachter

717-909-8901

beth@paorthosociety.org

PRESIDENT BUSH'S MESSAGE ON MEDICAL LIABILITY
STILL TRUE FOR PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG (January 6, 2005) – Orthopaedic surgeons in Pennsylvania applaud President Bush for his remarks to once again bring the urgent need for medical liability reform to the national stage.

Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society (POS) President Paul Christopher Metzger, M.D. noted that while federal legislation is needed, legal experts agree that Pennsylvania will also have to enact its own legislation to allow for limits on non-economic damages and caps on attorneys fees and other important reforms needed to bring balance to our legal system.

“Pennsylvania has some of the best medical care available, but we need to even the playing field so we can guarantee that specialty medical care will be available when we need it most,” Metzger said. “That’s why organizations like POS are calling for action on the state level this year to provide common sense tort reform so doctors can spend more time with patients and less time defending baseless lawsuits.”

Metzger noted that President Bush visited Scranton two years ago and brought real momentum to the medical liability issue in Pennsylvania. Since that visit, doctors have see

temporary relief from the state's mandated excess insurance program (MCARE) and a strong effort to enact tort reform.

POS is building on those successes and continuing the push for the following tort reform measures:

- reasonable limits on non-economic damages to bring stability and predictability to the legal system;
- caps on attorneys fees so patients who are truly injured get the resources they deserve;
- strict guidelines on the use of expert witnesses in court, so juries have the benefit of real science; and,
- permanent abatement from the state's mandated excess liability insurance premiums.

Further POS recognizes that Orthopaedic surgeons are being squeezed by declining reimbursement for services provided. On that front, POS continues to advocate for insurance contract integrity through legislative and legal remedies to provide full disclosure of fee schedules, improved payment policies and better dispute resolution procedures.

“It's in the best interest of patients, when doctors can focus on patient care and not on lawsuits or insurance rules,” Metzger said.

POS is a professional medical specialty organization representing more than 900 orthopaedic surgeons across Pennsylvania. For more information visit the POS website at www.paorthosociety.org.

#