



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STUDIES REVEAL NEED FOR ADDITIONAL LIABILITY REFORMS

HARRISBURG (June 1, 2005) – The following statement is attributable to Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society President Paul Christopher Metzger, M.D.:

Two independent studies released today in the Journal of the American Medical Association and funded by The Pew Charitable Trust's Project on Medical Liability in Pennsylvania indicate Pennsylvania's liability system fails patients and poses a severe threat to patient access to specialty medical care.

It has become increasingly difficult to care for patients, especially the more complex cases, because of a fear of being sued. Orthopaedic surgeons and their patients hope these studies provide legislators with helpful resources for understanding and addressing Pennsylvania's continued need for liability reform.

The studies point to both the financial cost of unnecessary and often expensive tests and the social cost of limited access to specialty medical care for patients with complicated medical conditions. Earlier this year, two government studies showed hundreds of millions of dollars in healthcare costs going to defend lawsuits in Pennsylvania.

Our patients deserve more than just a promise that they will have a right to sue, they deserve the right to quality healthcare and that means bringing balance to our medical liability system so we have more time and resources to invest in their care.

To access the full studies go to the Journal of the American Medical Association at: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/293/21/2609>.

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.

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