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BASEBALL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS RIDICULOUS LAWSUITS

HARRISBURG, PA (JUNE 30, 2006) – The issue of lawsuit abuse, which is often contentious in the state’s Capitol, will take to a new field this weekend when the Altoona Curve hosts a “Salute to Frivolous Lawsuit Night” on Sunday, July 2 at their Blair County Ballpark.

The event is in recognition of a Los Angeles Angels fan who filed a lawsuit against the club because he did not receive a red nylon tote bag as part of the major league Mother’s Day promotion last May.

“While this is obviously an opportunity to poke fun at silly, seemingly harmless lawsuits, these kind of lawsuits create a jackpot lottery mentality and we all end up paying for them,” said Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society (POS) President Joshua Port, M.D., of Altoona. Port serves as head team physician for the Altoona Curve.

“As a medical professional I see hundreds of millions of dollars each year diverted away from patient care to defend frivolous lawsuits,” Port added. “I applaud the Altoona Curve organization for raising this issue in a way that will make people think about the consequences of an overly litigious society, while also having good family fun.”

The special event will include the following:

- A Pink Tote Bag Giveaway to the first 137 men in attendance ages 18 and over;
- The first 137 women 18 and over will receive lukewarm coffee so they will not burn themselves;
- The first 137 kids will be given a beach ball with a warning not to ingest it;
- Angels merchandise and novelty items given away throughout the game;
- Honoring some of history's "Most Frivolous Lawsuits" during the game

For more information on the Altoona Curve, visit the club's official website at www.altoonacurve.com.

POS works with other statewide medical professional organizations to enact meaningful common sense medical liability reforms in order to preserve patient access to quality specialty medical care.

“We are engaged in a national race for a very limited pool of specialty surgeons, and Pennsylvania is not competitive because of the high cost of practicing medicine here,” Port explained. “Reasonable limits on non-economic damages and other reforms would go a long way to bring down the cost of healthcare and make Pennsylvania a more inviting place to practice medicine.”

POS is a professional medical specialty organization representing more than 1,000 orthopaedic surgeons across Pennsylvania. This year POS celebrates its 50th Anniversary ***”50 Years and Growing Stronger”*** with a series of public education materials and activities highlighting the excellence of orthopaedic medicine in Pennsylvania and the importance of bone, joint and muscle health at every age. For more information, go to www.growingstronger.org.

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