



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS SUPPORT MCARE ABATEMENT EXTENSION**

**HARRISBURG (October 25, 2005)** – The following statement is attributable to Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society President Paul Christopher Metzger, M.D. in response to Governor Ed Rendell’s request for a two-year extension to the state’s MCARE Abatement program:

“Orthopaedic surgeons and their patients are grateful for Governor Rendell’s continued commitment to making medical liability insurance more affordable and more available in Pennsylvania. We applaud the Governor’s and General Assembly’s tort reform initiatives which over the long term can have a significant impact on the frequency and severity of claims. The state’s MCARE Abatement program has helped keep trauma centers open, emergency rooms staffed and ensure patient access to specialty medical care across Pennsylvania.”

“While we wait for important reforms enacted during 2002 to result in medical liability insurance premium decreases, MCARE Abatement, which was enacted in the Governor Rendell’s first term, represents a critical component of a long-term solution.”

“We join the Governor in asking for a two-year extension to the state’s MCARE Abatement program. Though the major insurers have not filed for *rate increases* this

year, many specialty doctors will continue to see *premium increases* when their insurance bills come due in December.

“POS also supports the efforts of House and Senate members who are advocating for MCARE Abatement. We look forward to working with the Governor and the General Assembly to maintain the momentum needed to preserve patient access to specialty medical care by extending MCARE Abatement while also enacting further common sense reforms to strengthen our healthcare system for the future.”

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](http://www.paorthosociety.org).

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