

VOTE NO ON HB 6017

Why vote NO on HB 6017?

Escalating healthcare costs are a significant challenge in Florida. Unreasonably high medical malpractice claim payouts contribute substantially to this problem.

Not only do excessive payouts financially burden the state's healthcare system, but they also adversely affect the affordability and accessibility of healthcare for all Floridians, as more physicians retire and fewer physicians come to Florida given the existing conditions of the state's medical malpractice regime.

HB 6017 would drastically expand survivor eligibility in medical malpractice actions, opening the door to even more medical malpractice litigation and even larger damages awards. More specifically, HB 6017 would repeal subsection (8) of section 768.21, which specifies that certain noneconomic damages recoverable by adult children and parents of an adult child in other actions may not be recovered in medical malpractice actions. Given the existing challenges in Florida, the Legislature should not expand the class of survivors that may recover noneconomic damages awards in medical malpractice actions.

Florida's medical malpractice law as it stands today — which does not allow adult children and parents of adult children decedents to recover noneconomic damages in medical malpractice actions — has already led to a significant number of exorbitant verdicts, often propelled by large noneconomic damages awards.

Florida remains in the midst of a medical malpractice crisis, with little relief on the horizon.

Increased claims costs and increased premiums have very significant implications for physicians' decisions with regard to their ongoing practice of medicine in Florida.

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Questions? Reach out to William Large at william@fljustice.org.