

Date: _____

Dear Senator,

I am a concerned parent writing to urge you to support medical liability reform legislation.

Skyrocketing malpractice insurance premiums—the result of exorbitant lawsuits and jury awards—have forced thousands of obstetricians-gynecologists to give up delivering babies. In fact, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, almost half the nation is in “Red Alert” crisis mode, meaning that the number of ob-gyns is not sufficient to meet patients’ needs. As a result, women often must travel long distances—60 miles or more—to find a physician willing to provide obstetric care. In addition, an increasing number of hospitals are closing their obstetric wards because of liability pressures, and many midwives can no longer afford to help bring babies into this world.

Although it is tragic when an infant is born with health problems like cerebral palsy, experts know that doctors are not at fault in most cases. Legislation that limits malpractice awards as well as the amount that attorneys receive in such cases would help turn the tide in our increasingly litigious society. Similar legislation in California has been successful in slowing the rise in malpractice insurance costs.

I hope you will take this important step to safeguard quality health care for women and children.

Sincerely,