STOP VENUE SHOPPING!

DON’T PUT PENNSYLVANIA’S HEALTH CARE, JOBS, AND PATIENTS AT RISK!

The Problem: Venue Shopping! This is when big city plaintiffs’ law firms choose courts to file medical liability lawsuits based on the potential for a jackpot verdict, but the location of the court has no connection to the case. Large payouts resulting from venue shopping were one of the root causes of the medical liability crisis of the early 2000s that put patient access to health care in danger. Plaintiffs’ attorneys got rich while health care suffered.

Hospitals were forced to curtail services and close maternity wards. Physicians and specialists stopped providing medical services due to skyrocketing liability insurance premiums. Access to health care was under attack!

The Solution: The Governor, Legislature, and the Courts worked together to stop venue shopping. A rule was enacted in 2003 requiring cases to be filed only where the alleged injury occurred. That stopped many cases from being filed in places like Philadelphia where over half the awards exceeded $1 million. Philadelphia had almost as many million-dollar payouts as the entire state of California between 1999 and 2001.

The Threat Today: Plaintiffs’ attorneys want to return to the pre-2003 venue rules and the days of profitable, jackpot awards. If they are successful, venue shopping will return. Medical liability premiums will soar, and the health care crisis will return. We know what happened in the early 2000s and we can’t let it happen again!

VENUE SHOPPING = BAD RESULTS

Unchecked Lawsuit Awards

Medical Liability Insurance Premiums Soar

Health Care Costs Go Up
Physicians, Hospitals, & Long-Term Care Facilities Cut Services

Patient Access to Care Severely Limited
Patient Care Suffers
Health Care Jobs Disappear

www.paforciviljusticereform.org