



February 2010

## OUR SHARED CONCERN: PATIENT ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE

Dear Colleague:

The profoundly disappointing Illinois Supreme Court decision to strike down our state's hard-won medical liability reform law and jeopardize our patients' access to medical care has elicited public outcry across Illinois.

Since the law's overturn on February 4, national, regional and local media have expressed strong opposition to the court's ruling. From the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Chicago Tribune* to the *Decatur Herald & Review* and the *Madison County Record* – all these and more have recognized the injustice imposed on patients by this decision (see articles at [www.realitymedicine.com](http://www.realitymedicine.com)).

While the court did not rule our way, we want to acknowledge medicine's two strong champions: Justices Rita Garman and Lloyd Karmeier. Their dissent aptly characterizes our view that the Supreme Court overstepped *its* bounds in striking the law, rather than the other way around. Visit [www.realitymedicine.com](http://www.realitymedicine.com) to read the court opinion and dissent.

The demise of reform has revealed the suspect aims of trial lawyers attempting to defend the status quo and splinter medicine. We can't let them get away with such demagoguery. Our unity in 2005 is what led to victory, and our approach will persevere.

**As your long time advocates, ISMS and ISMIE Mutual stand strong in our commitment to the health of our profession and our patients. We strive to ensure the availability of medical care throughout our state. We will not let the trial bar prevent the best possible health care environment in Illinois.**

Today, ISMS and ISMIE Mutual are planning next steps – including strong election activism in the fall. As doctors, we will always advocate for our patients. We welcome your ideas and comments and will update you soon on future plans to improve Illinois' medical litigation climate, and what you can do to help.

Sincerely,

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P.S. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to ISMS, ISMIE Mutual and to your patients. Please watch for pertinent updates through our publications and at [www.realitymedicine.com](http://www.realitymedicine.com), [www.isms.org](http://www.isms.org) and [www.ismie.com](http://www.ismie.com).