

IT'S STILL HOT IN ARIZONA!

The end of the summer does not mean the end of our battles for medical liability reform. The beaches of San Diego may make us yearn for retirement, but home is where the heart is and our patients need us. So we must try to figure out a way to solve this crisis.

While we were swimming in the Pacific (hopefully not sunning – I am a dermatologist you know), Pennsylvania and Wyoming fell further into crisis. In Wyoming a special legislative session was called when the only malpractice carrier in the state withdrew. Pennsylvania's constitution continues to block progress there as it does here.

This medical liability problem should not be a partisan issue though it clearly is. Surely everyone wants ready access to good medical care at a reasonable price with their doctors concentrating on medicine, not law. We all worry about our families when they need medical attention and political officeholders are sworn to look out for their constituents. Only the trial lawyers and a few “injured” patients gain while everyone else loses big? So why are the Democrats nearly universally against medical liability reform and Republicans universally for it? The plaintiff's bar in fact their prize Senator on the ticket for Vice President.

Certainly it comes down to money as the trial bar is the biggest contributor to the Democratic Party and their strongest lobby. These people will try to make the case that malpractice suits are because of bad doctors, not unscrupulous lawyers. This type of reasoning would have us believe that since neurosurgeons are sued in this state nearly every year and our group has no suits in over 80 years of practice between us, we are clearly better doctors than the neurosurgeons. Do you suppose there could be any other explanation for this occurrence or should we go over to Barrows and show them how to do brain surgery?

Reasonable people can solve this problem but it unfortunately appears to require a change in officeholders and therefore it becomes partisan and political. The Arizona Medical Political Action Committee (ArMPAC) has endorsed candidates for office in the November election and we are publishing it in this issue. All endorsed candidates support medical liability reform. Please review the list that immediately follows my President's Page and be involved in this election.

Next month we will have our “medical liability insurance crisis town hall”. This will serve not only to inform all practitioners of the status of the problem and our efforts to resolve it, but also to alert the public of the threat to their care. Hopefully it will be a well attended and successful rally which will lead towards a return to insurance sanity. Please note the date when released and stay tuned for more information and above all, make every effort to attend!

WE NEED YOU!

See you next month,

Bryan R. Updegraff, M.D.
President

ArMPAC Candidate Endorsements

On July 19, 2004, ArMPAC met to review the candidates running for the U.S. Congress and the Arizona State Legislature. The following list represents the endorsements made by ArMPAC. The ArMPAC Board felt that the goals of organized medicine would be best served by the election of these individuals. *Be sure to check which district you are eligible to vote and which candidate has been endorsed for that district.*

Arizona Congressional Delegation

District	Candidate	Party
Arizona	John McCain	R
1	Rick Renzi	R
2	Trent Franks	R
3	John Shadegg	R
4	No Endorsement	
5	J.D. Hayworth	R
6	Stan Barnes	R
7	No Endorsement	
8	Jim Kolbe	R

Arizona State Senate

1	Ken Bennett	R
2	Albert Hale	D
3	Bill Wagner	R
4	Jack Harper	R
5	Jake Flake	R
6	Dean Martin	R
7	Jim Waring	R
8	Carolyn Allen	R
9	Bob Burns	R
10	Linda Gray	R
11	Barbara Leff	R
12	Robert Blendu	R
13	Richard Miranda	D
14	No Endorsement	
15	Ken Chevront	D
16	No Endorsement	
17	Harry Mitchell	D
18	Mary Jo Vecchirelli	R
19	No Endorsement	
20	John Huppenthal	R
21	Jay Tibshraeny	R
22	Thayer Verschoor	R
23	Bob Mitchell	D
24	Bob Cannell	D

25	Marsha Arzberger	D
26	Toni Hellon	R
27	Jorge Garcia	D
28	Gabrielle Giffords	D
29	Victor Soltero	D
30	Tim Bee	R

Arizona House of Representatives

1	Lucy Mason	R
1	Tom O'Halleran	R
2	Albert Tom	D
3	Trish Groe	R
3	Nancy McLain	R
4	Tom Boone	R
4	Judy Burges	R
5	Jack Brown	D
5	Bill Konopnicki	R
6	Ted Carpenter	R
6	Clancy Jayne	R
7	Ray Barnes	R
7	Thomas Van Hapsburg	R
8	Michele Reagan	R
8	Colette Rosati	R
9	Phil Hanson	R
9	Bob Stump	R
10	Doug Quelling	R
10	Jim Weiers	R
11	John Allen	R
11	Steve Tully	R
12	Bill Arnold	R
12	John Nelson	R
13	Steve Gallardo	D
14	Debbie McCune-Davis	D
14	Robert Meza	D
15	David Lujan	D
15	Wally Straughn	D
16	Leah Landrum-Taylor	D
17	Mark Thompson	R
18	Russell Pearce	R
19	Chuck Gray	R
19	Gary Pierce	R
20	Anton Orlich	R
20	Bob Robson	R
21	Warde Nichols	R
21	Gretchen Wolfe	R
22	Andy Biggs	R

22	Eddie Farnsworth	R
23	Ernest Bustamante	D
23	Cheryl Chase	D
24	Amanda Aguirre	D
24	Russell Jones	R
25	Manuel Alvarez	D
25	Jennifer Burns	R
26	Pete Hershberger	R
26	Steve Huffman	R
27	Olivia Cajero Bedford	D
27	Phil Lopes	D
28	David Bradley	D
28	Dick Dale	R
29	Linda Lopez	D
29	Tom Prezelski	D
30	Marian McClure	R
30	Jonathan Paton	R