

AAJ TALKING POINTS NEW DOCTOR NUMBERS

- New data from the American Medical Association shows the number of doctors is increasing nationwide, and in most states faster than the general population.
- This is a rejection of myths that physicians are fleeing because of medical liability concerns.
- States that don't have caps actually have 13 percent more doctors per capita than states with caps.
- Tort reformers have claimed that doctors are fleeing states because of liability concerns. This data proves this is entirely untrue.
- Patients are safest when we have a strong civil justice system that deters negligent conduct and holds wrongdoers accountable.
- While tort reform may be a great idea to protect the profits of insurance companies and their CEOs, it does nothing to keep good doctors in a state or improve patient safety.

Background

These talking points were created for states to promote new doctor numbers from the American Medical Association. Their own figures show all states are experiencing doctor growth. Only Georgia, Utah, Alaska and Montana had growth slower than its population (but still saw an increase in doctors).

AAJ compared the recent AMA data with past years to develop the statistics. The most recent statistics are from 2007.

Other talking points on caps if necessary:

- Caps are an arbitrary, one-size-fits-all approach that ignores the patient's suffering and necessary future treatment.
- A jury is the only fair way to truly decide what a victim's pain and suffering is worth.