



# POLK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

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## **Comprehensive Medical Liability Reform (Tort Reform)**

To impact changes in the malpractice insurance market for Iowa physicians, Polk County Medical Society supports:

- A \$250,000 cap on non-economic damage awards for physicians and a reduction in the statute of limitations for minors. This is a firm cap, not indexed for inflation and no exceptions.
- Required disclosure of consulting physician's name, and that the physician be an expert in the area of medicine that is the subject of the lawsuit. This will be a strong preventive measure against the filing of non-meritorious suits.
- Stronger standards for expert witnesses. Witnesses must be board certified or board eligible in the same/substantially similar specialty as the defendant. The expert must also devote a majority of time to the practice of medicine, teaching or research. Retired experts must be current with continuing medical education.
- Supports immunity from malpractice liability for physicians who provide medical services on a voluntary basis without economic compensation.
- The state legislature should provide tort reform legislation to cover obstetrical services.
- Supports mediation of claims prior to trial of a medical liability case.