

R020-0405

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE STATE OF MEDICAL LAWSUITS**

20 **WHEREAS:** Tort lawsuits account for 250 billion dollars in costs yearly; and,

30 **WHEREAS:** This is equivalent to two percent of our GDP; and,

40 **WHEREAS:** This places the equivalent of an 800 dollar tax on every citizen in America; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** Doctors in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Florida have gone on
60 walkouts due to higher insurance premiums caused by frivolous suits and
70 excessive monetary awards; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** In Nevada a trauma center was forced to close due to the same situation; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** Doctors in high-risk fields, such as obstetrics and trauma response are most
100 likely to be affected and quit their jobs; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** These areas are where skilled care is most crucial; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** In many cases, those who testify on behalf of plaintiffs are not qualified or make
130 the vast majority of their money testifying for plaintiffs attorneys; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** In many cases, non-economic damages are unreasonably excessive; and,

150 **WHEREAS:** There are many cases where serious damage has been done to plaintiffs in
160 medical malpractice cases.

170 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature encourages the
180 Maryland General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign House Bill 301 and Senate Bill 221
190 in order to address these problems.

200 **MANDATES:** Governor Robert Ehrlich
220 Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller
230 Speaker of the House of Delegates Michael E. Busch

SPONSOR:

Alan Smith
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
a35@umbc.edu