

S.B. 33's Lawsuit Reforms Are Good For...

... North Carolina Businesses

- Help recruit and retain physicians to practice in NC. These proven reforms are essential to a strong business recruitment strategy and these or similar reforms have been passed in at least 26 states.
- Lower overall healthcare expenditures. Medical malpractice reform is one strategy that has been shown to contribute to lower health costs. Lowering healthcare costs is important to small and large businesses alike.
- Lowering health insurance costs would leave workers with more income, boosting state government tax revenues.

... Patients

- By making the practice of medicine more affordable in underserved areas, liability reform can improve patient access to health care.
- In Texas, tort reform led to an 18% rise in physician employment in four years, double the rate of the state's population increase. The Texas increase was greatest among specialists like obstetricians, orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons – many specialties needed in rural North Carolina communities.

... the Health Care System

- Lowering the cost of medical malpractice tends to reduce the use of and overall cost of health care services making the system more affordable for patients, taxpayers and providers.
- The Congressional Budget Office has concluded that by lowering the cost of insurance and discouraging defensive medicine, medical liability reform would save federal taxpayers \$54 billion over the next 10 years.
- Reducing the threat of frivolous lawsuits and excessive jury awards would relieve the pressure on providers to administer medical tests and treatments that might not be necessary but help protect against lawsuits.