

Intro if necessary:

Access to quality health care is a right of all Mississippians. We have all worked tirelessly to study the crisis of availability and affordability of medical malpractice insurance for our health care providers. We have received input from health care providers, members of the plaintiff's and defense bar, and members of the business community. Everyone agrees that the problem must be solved.

Option A: Open up the call

In order to break the logjam, if the Leadership of the House wants me to expand the call to include overall civil justice reform, then I will do so.

(Or, If the leadership of the House can assure me that the votes are there to pass an overall civil justice reform bill which includes a solution to the medical malpractice insurance crisis, then I will expand the call for this special session to include civil justice reform.)

Option B: Stay the course

Today, after two days of conference, a compromise has not been reached. Pass legislation resolving the medical malpractice crisis in Mississippi. The solution is right before us.

I commit to the Leadership and to the people of Mississippi that I will then expand the call to include general civil justice reform. Overall civil justice reform is an issue that deserves debate by both Houses. Therefore, I urge the House and the Senate to pass legislation that resolves medical malpractice insurance.

Option C: Blast away

There is a crisis here in the State and the people of Mississippi deserve better than to have their representatives in this stalemate. We have the responsibility of addressing the crisis of medical malpractice insurance and moving on to overall civil justice reform. The very reason that I did not include civil justice reform in the medical malpractice debate is what has happened this weekend.

We are capable of passing meaningful medical malpractice reform. Upon passage, I will then expand the call to include overall civil justice reform.

Language to consider for the announcement when expanding the call:

As the Legislature debates overall civil justice reform, I ask that several important issues be understood. Any bill that protects (the worst in our society) corporate thievery, drunk drivers, and those who take advantage of our elderly is not fair to the people of Mississippi and a bill that should not be sent to my desk. Also, as we debate changes to our civil justice system, we must remember that we are the people who make up Mississippi juries. We trust voters to elect us and to decide on death penalty cases. We must respect