

TALKING POINTS ON MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

- I have met with and **listened to** doctors and health care providers across the state, and they have told me their **number one concern** is the rising cost and availability of medical malpractice insurance.
- We have been working to **solve the problem** of the cost and availability of medical malpractice insurance.
- We are looking at **innovative ideas** that will offer our health care providers stable and affordable insurance.
- Our plan will provide doctors, hospitals and healthcare providers with the stability and **peace of mind** they need to be able to continue to provide health care for the 2.8 million people in Mississippi.
- This is about **more than just civil justice reform**; it is about **ensuring access to quality health care** for the people of Mississippi.
- Everyone agrees **there is a crisis**. The rising cost of insurance and the declining number of companies who are willing to write the policies is a problem that we must solve.
- We will **continue to work** with the **medical community and the legislature** to finalize our plan and we **will be calling a special session** this summer to do just that.

TORT REFORM IN GENERAL:

- Certainly, **there is room for changes** to the civil justice system in the state. And, as I have said time and again, when the legislative leadership can demonstrate they have an agreement, I will call a special session.
- I want to **commend the legislative leadership** for appointing committees to look at the issues of civil justice reform. **We pledge our support** to work with them toward a reasonable solution.