



DAILY LEGISLATIVE BRIEF FROM JANUARY 21, 2003

Source: Associated Industries of Florida

Today, the **House Select Committee on Medical Liability Insurance** heard testimony on the liability insurance problems facing physicians and state disciplinary action against health care providers. An actuary from the Milliman USA summarized a recently completed study. He stated that in the year 2000, Florida medical malpractice paid losses were 50 percent higher than the countrywide average. In California, which caps awards, losses were 50 percent less than the countrywide average. The Milliman USA study estimates that a \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages will reduce medical malpractice losses in Florida by 30 percent.

Former Secretary of Health, Dr. Brooks, discussed Florida's shortage of physician specialists and those who are willing to practice in rural areas. A representative from the Florida Medical Association stated that a recent survey of its members found 50 percent of the doctors were planning to retire or leave the state due to the high cost of liability insurance and/or fear of lawsuits.

The Committee plans to hold three hearings around the state on February 13 and 14.

Please send your comments or suggestions to us at aif@aif.com or call the Governmental Affairs department at (850)224-7173.

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