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SR-02-03-(22) 52 LA

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**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**


SR-02-03-(22) 52 LA

Recommends that the Legislative Affairs Committee, the Faculty Senate and the University community jointly express deep concern about the crisis of the state's medical practice insurance problem. We urge the state legislature to pass effective tort reform legislation promptly.

RATIONALE:

1. The rising cost of medical malpractice insurance premiums has created difficulties for medical practice and medical education in West Virginia. In addition to the loss of physicians from our state because of the high cost of malpractice insurance, it is extremely difficult to recruit specialists to this state because of the costs involved in running a practice, and because they see the loss of physicians and feel that the practice situation here is unstable. Thus more and more patients have to go out-of-state for specialty care and can no longer find general care in their own communities.
2. The applicant pool for admissions to medical schools has been in a declining trend.
3. Passing of a tort reform bill would ease this crisis and help remediate those problems.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:

APPROVED BY SENATE:  DATE: 12-13-02

DISAPPROVED BY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED:  DATE: 1-3-03

DISAPPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

