
Government Relations

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Government Relations – Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Support comprehensive effective legislation that will (1) enhance the health care liability system, (2) promote meaningful patient-safety initiatives, (3) improve healthcare quality, and (4) support communication between healthcare professionals, providers and patients
- ❖ Provide advocacy to address challenges to the health care liability system that may (1) create new causes of action, (2) alter the standard of care, (3) establish strict liability for providing or not providing care, and (4) impose onerous or unnecessary duties on healthcare professionals and providers.

Federal and Statewide Efforts:

- Support *Accessible Care by Curbing Excessive LawSuits Act of 2019* (“ACCESS”) – comprehensive legislation that improves the liability system and promotes meaningful patient safety initiatives – similar to California’s *Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act*
- Support Crisis Standard of Care and the *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act* – provides liability protection for health care professionals and facilities providing uncompensated services to victims of federally declared disasters
- Promote framework for legislation that addresses telemedicine liability concerns as telemedicine services expand
- Protect reasonable cybersecurity and data privacy proposals relating to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Defeat proposals that expand time periods to sue by extending statute of limitations in civil procedures

Washington:

- Defeat proposals that expand economic damages by inflating medical expenses in personal injury medical claims
- Defeat proposals that allow punitive or exemplary damages in Washington State
- Support proposals that engage in shared decision making without impacting informed consent requirements
- Promote reasonable proposals regarding a health care provider’s duty to protect and duty to warn in the outpatient context

Oregon:

- Defeat proposals that add insurance to the Unlawful Trade Practices Act and expand the types of lawsuits that are brought against insurance companies
- Defeat proposals that increase the \$500,000 cap on non-economic damages recoverable in wrongful death actions
- Promote a reasonable and fair cap on non-economic damages recoverable in personal injury actions
- Support legislation that improves the liability system and promotes communication between healthcare professionals, providers and patients

Idaho:

- Support proposals that protect the distinction between negligence and recklessness as applied to the non-economic damage cap

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