

Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.



NEWS

Mary Kay Grasmick, WHA

608-274-1820 or 575-7516

Supreme Court Decision Preserves Wisconsin's Unique Medical Liability System

MADISON (July 20, 2010) ----- The Wisconsin Hospital Association is pleased and gratified that today the Wisconsin Supreme Court protected the integrity of the Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund. The Court's decision preserves Wisconsin's unique medical liability system that *ensures* patients who are injured as the result of medical malpractice are appropriately compensated for their damages. The Court rightly determined that the statutes require the State to protect the Fund from its oftentimes-volatile budget process. Actuaries and other experts cite the Fund as an important reason Wisconsin is one of a few states with a stable medical liability environment.

"A stable medical liability environment is one of the key elements needed to preserve and improve access to health care services – in both rural and urban areas of the state," according to WHA President Steve Brenton. "Given the massive changes coming to our health care system that will place tremendous new demands on health care providers, it would have been truly regrettable to jeopardize the carefully crafted liability system that has served Wisconsin so well. We appreciate the Court's decision," Brenton added.

The Wisconsin Hospital Association advocates on behalf of hospitals to enable them to provide high quality health care services to Wisconsin communities. Like physicians, Wisconsin hospitals pay into the Fund. WHA filed a friend of the court brief in the case.

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