

## Sample Letter to U.S. Senators On Malpractice Insurance

Honorable [Name of Senator, either Christopher Dodd or Joseph Lieberman]  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The cost of malpractice insurance in Connecticut has become unaffordable for hospitals and physicians, threatening the health care received by all of the people of our State. We desperately need your help to secure legislative relief from the high costs of malpractice insurance this year by supporting the provisions contained in S.4, introduced by Senator Bill Frist (R-TN).

Like hospitals throughout the country, Connecticut's hospitals are reeling from the skyrocketing costs of medical malpractice insurance. Many of Connecticut's hospitals have seen triple digit percentage increases in their medical malpractice costs over the last five years. At [name of hospital], we have seen an increase of [ ] % in the last three years alone. This is true despite major efforts to improve quality and patient safety.

The worst aspect of this crisis is that it appears to be affecting patients' access to services. OB/GYNs throughout Connecticut report that they have severely cutback on the services they provide, with many making the decision to provide gynecological services only. Because of low reimbursements and high medical malpractice insurance costs, obstetrics is, unfortunately, also one of the first services hospitals in severe financial difficulty consider eliminating. This situation is unsustainable if we are to ensure that the people of our great State continue to receive the quality services they need and deserve.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support the medical malpractice provisions in S.4. At a time when Connecticut's hospitals are struggling financially, the provisions in S.4 will at least help reduce one of the many cost pressures we face and enable us to continue to serve our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,