

STOP VENUE SHOPPING!

DON'T PUT PENNSYLVANIA'S HEALTH CARE, JOBS, AND PATIENTS AT RISK!

What is VENUE SHOPPING?

Venue determines where a case can be filed in the Commonwealth. When plaintiffs' attorneys venue shop, they seek to file medical liability lawsuits in Philadelphia and other high verdict jurisdictions in search of large payouts – even though the location of the court has no connection to the case.

What is the IMPACT?

We have seen first-hand the disastrous effects venue shopping has on access to health care. Prior to a 2003 rule prohibiting venue shopping in medical liability cases, Pennsylvania was in the grip of a medical liability crisis. Attorneys funneled as many cases as possible through Philadelphia's notoriously high-verdict court system in search of a large payday. As a result, liability premiums for healthcare professionals skyrocketed – causing hospitals and medical professionals to curtail services and close maternity wards. *Plaintiffs' attorneys got rich while health care access suffered!*

With access to health care under attack, the Governor, Legislature, and Courts worked together to stop venue shopping. A rule was enacted in 2003 *requiring cases to be filed only where the alleged injury occurred*. Since the rule was adopted nearly 20 years ago, the number of medical liability cases filed in Philadelphia and other high verdict court systems has plummeted. The rule has brought fairness and balance to Pennsylvania's civil justice system!

What is the PROBLEM?

There is an ongoing push by plaintiffs' attorneys to return to the pre-2003 venue rules and the days of profitable, jackpot awards. The Supreme Court could act any day now to enact a rule that would take away protections preventing venue shopping. **If this happens medical liability premiums could soar, access to physicians and specialty services will decline and the health care crisis will return.** Pennsylvania is already facing a clinician shortage – we can't afford to drive more health care professionals out of state!

What is the SOLUTION?

A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT prohibiting venue shopping in medical liability cases will address this issue once and for all. Absent a constitutional amendment, the Supreme Court will continue to determine the venue issue itself without any check on its powers by the General Assembly.

Legislators need to pass the CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT now so that it can be ratified by voters in 2023!

www.paforciviljusticereform.org

UNITED AGAINST VENUE SHOPPING

Allegheny County Medical Society
American Academy of Pediatrics, PA Chapter
American College of Physicians, PA Chapter
American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)
Barton Post, Esq.
Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry
Chester County Medical Society
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Delaware County Medical Society
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Pennsylvania Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice Reform
Pennsylvania Health Care Association
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