

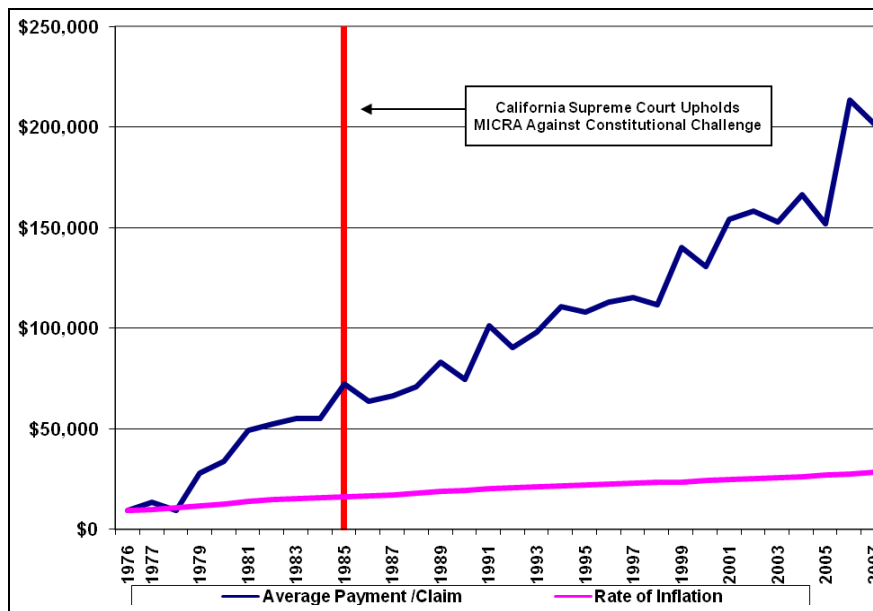
# MICRA

## Protecting Patients – Protecting Access

California’s Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA) ensures injured patients receive fair compensation while preserving patients’ access to healthcare by keeping doctors, nurses and healthcare providers in practice and hospitals and clinics open. MICRA has saved healthcare consumers tens of billions of dollars. Any changes to MICRA would be most devastating to specialty services like OBGYNs, emergency providers, community clinics, and rural health providers who remain particularly vulnerable to any liability increases or weakening of MICRA’s reforms.

### UNDER MICRA, PAYMENTS TO INJURED PATIENTS HAVE GONE UP FASTER THAN THE RATE OF INFLATION...

- Under the provisions of MICRA, injured patients receive unlimited compensation for any and all economic damages including any and all past and future medical expenses, any and all past and future lost wages and unlimited punitive damage recovery. Only speculative, non-economic damages are capped at \$250,000.
- Under MICRA, the average size of medical liability awards in California has increased faster than the rise in inflation.



“MICRA and Access to Healthcare,” LECG 2008, p. 27

### ... AND PROVIDERS’ LIABILITY PREMIUMS HAVE STABILIZED.

- This data from the “Medical Liability Monitor” 2008 compares annual professional liability costs in three states. With more stable rates, more healthcare providers can remain in practice providing care to patients:

	<b>California</b> (Los Angeles/ Orange Counties)	<b>New York</b> (Nassau/Suffolk Counties)	<b>Florida</b> (Dade County)
OBGYN	\$ 89,953	\$194,935	\$214,893
General Surgery	\$ 68,007	\$104,054	\$214,893
Internal Medicine	\$ 20,283	\$ 30,692	\$ 53,723

### MORE PROVIDERS MEANS PATIENTS HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, states with lower medical malpractice premiums tend to have more doctors per capita, including surgeons and specialists.
- Texas enacted medical liability reforms in 2003. Since then, Texas has had a 17.5% increase in licensed doctors, according to the Texas Medical Board. Thirty-three rural counties have added at least one ER doctor, including 24 counties that previously had none.
- In New York, a state without reforms, eight counties are without obstetricians according to the Center for Health Workforce Studies. The Center also found that 18 of New York’s counties have fewer than five practicing OBGYNs.