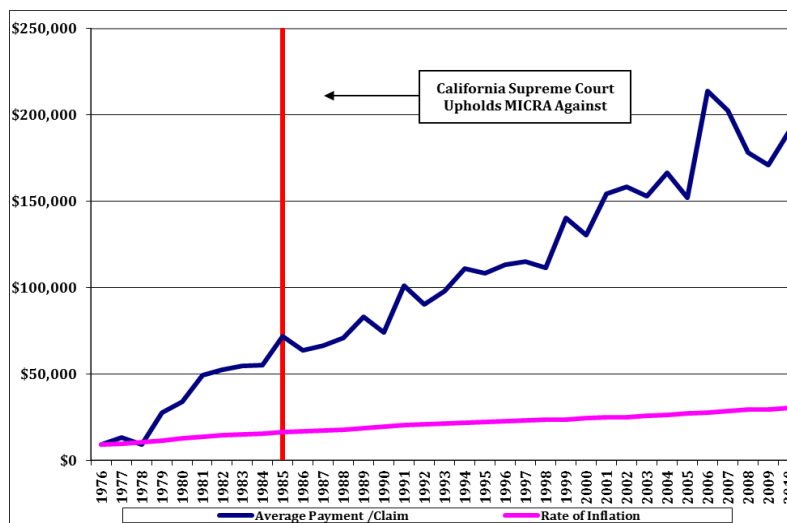


MICRA: Protecting Patients – Protecting Access

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.

Under MICRA, the Average Size of Medical Liability Awards Has Increased 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. An additional \$250,000 in non-economic damages can also be awarded.



“MICRA and Access to Healthcare,” LECG 2010, p. 28

Under MICRA, Professional Liability Premiums Have Stabilized

- This data from the “Medical Liability Monitor” 2010 compares annual professional liability costs in three states. With more stable rates, more healthcare providers can remain in practice providing care to patients:

	California (Los Angeles/ Orange Counties)	New York (Nassau/Suffolk Counties)	Florida (Dade County)
OBGYN	\$ 89,953	\$186,772	\$192,982
General Surgery	\$ 68,007	\$115,872	\$192,982
Internal Medicine	\$ 20,283	\$ 35,028	\$ 48,245

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, 19 counties are without obstetricians, 22 are without internal medicine specialists and 15 do not have surgical specialty doctors, according to a 2010 study by The Center for Health Workforce Studies.