

insurance through a hospital. He couldn't do it on his own. You've got a problem here in this State.

Greg Przybylski was here. He's a brain doctor. He has been moving from Pennsylvania to Illinois to New Jersey because the costs were too high. He can't stay in business. He can't do what he was trained to do and loves to do, which is to treat patients. He talked about—when he was living in Chicago, he talked about a patient of his who had incredible complications. The guy couldn't find help in Pennsylvania, so the man drove all the way out to Chicago to be treated by Greg. That says a lot about Greg. It says a lot about his patients. And unfortunately it says something bad about the health care system, when liability costs are such that you can't get the kind of care that you need in Pennsylvania.

You're not alone, though. It's not just your State that's got a problem. We heard from an OB/GYN in the State of Florida about how she couldn't get insured. In Nevada, pregnant women sometimes have to leave the State to find a doctor. One woman called more than 50 local doctors and couldn't find one to serve her. So she's going to go to Utah to have her baby.

I was down in Mississippi recently to talk about this issue. There's a doc and his wife, who's also a doctor, who came from up north down to Mississippi in the Delta region of that State. And the Delta region has got a lot of people who hurt, a lot of people who are needy, a lot of people who need health care. And they went, not to build a giant portfolio of wealth; they went because they got great hearts. They heard a calling. They heard—he would have attributed it to the Almighty. Having watched him, I would have attributed it to the Almighty, too. He has got a fantastic heart to him. I could see that he was inspired. He told me he's leaving the Delta because the trial lawyers ran him out. He couldn't practice medicine without getting sued.

Something's wrong with the system. And a broken system like that, first and foremost, hurts the patients and the people of America. Twenty percent of hospitals nationwide have had to cut down on certain services, on delivering babies or neurosurgery or cardiovascular surgery or orthopedic surgery. That's a fact. So the problem is not only for Pennsylvania; it's a problem for our country.

And there's another cost driver. And if you're worried about getting sued all the time, then there is the natural tendency to practice what they call defensive medicine. In other words, you order tests that someone may not need, to protect yourself in a court of law. And that's costly, and that's one of the main reasons why costs are going up. These lawsuits have got a lot of effects on our country, and we've just got to understand that.

This is an incredibly important issue for States. I obviously hope the State of Pennsylvania is able to address it. That can happen in the statehouse. When I got to Washington, I said, "That's an important issue for the States." And then it didn't take me long to realize, this is an important issue for the Federal Government too, and I'll tell you why. The direct cost of malpractice insurance and the indirect cost from defensive medicine raise the Federal Government's health care cost by at least \$28 billion a year. Malpractice, defensive practice of medicine affects Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' health, Government employee costs. It affects the Federal Government. Therefore, it is a Federal issue.

It is a national problem that needs a national solution. And here it is. First, let me just say this as clearly as I can: We want our judicial system to work. People who have got a claim, a legitimate claim, must have a hearing in our courts. Somebody who has suffered at the hand of a lousy doc must be protected. And they deserve a court that is uncluttered by frivolous and junk lawsuits. If they prove damages, they should be able to recover the