A RESOLUTION

Urging the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to study the impact on certain entities caused by the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure that allow broad latitude to plaintiffs in the bringing of certain tort cases and to examine the efficacy and justice of expanding the Supreme Court's 2002 rule on venue for cases of alleged medical professional liability to all civil proceedings.

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Supreme Court, pursuant to section 10(c) of Article V of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, has the power and the responsibility to make rules of civil procedure for the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court in 2002 responded to precipitous loss of medical insurance availability with amendments to the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure that made venue in cases of alleged medical professional liability more equitable and certain, and case outcomes therefore more predictable; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court has documented annually since 2002 that the number of civil litigation cases with a cause of action involving alleged medical professional liability filed in the...
WHEREAS, National studies have repeatedly cited Pennsylvania and specifically the County of Philadelphia as examples for abuse of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure providing for venue in civil cases; and

WHEREAS, Expert witnesses have testified before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that Pennsylvania's venue rule for nonmedical personal injury civil cases differs widely from the norm in most other states and is a cause of concern for Pennsylvania's competitive economic position; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's venue rule for nonmedical personal injury cases results in a disproportional burden on citizens who are called to serve as jurors in litigation involving parties and events unrelated to their community, at a cost to citizens' time and resources and the resources of the forum jurisdiction; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to study the impact on plaintiffs, defendants and the finances of the Commonwealth and its local governments caused by existing Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure that allow broad latitude to plaintiffs to bring personal injury lawsuits other than medical professional liability in venues within this Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives respectfully petition the Supreme Court to examine the efficacy and justice of applying the Supreme Court's 2002 rule on venue for cases of alleged medical professional liability to all proceedings alleging personal injury liability; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
the Honorable Ronald Castille, the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and to every Justice of the Supreme Court and to the Supreme Court's officers and administrators.