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Senate of Pennsylvania
25TH DISTRICT
SENATOR CRIS DUSH

October 29, 2025

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The Honorable Chief Justice Debra Todd
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
601 Commonwealth Avenue
Suite 8100
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Dear Chief Justice Todd:

In late 2022, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court unilaterally rescinded the medical liability venue rule, Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure 1006(a.1). This rule safeguarded the health care system from rampant venue shopping by opportunistic trial lawyers. For two decades, this rule ensured that malpractice lawsuits were filed where the alleged incident occurred — not wherever juries were most likely to deliver sky-high payouts. The rule rescission took effect on January 1, 2023. Since then, Philadelphia — notorious for jackpot verdicts — has been flooded with medical malpractice cases. Liability premiums, especially in the counties surrounding Philadelphia, have increased considerably over the past two years as cases once filed in those counties are now filed in Philadelphia.

Tucked inside that same rule change was this provision:

(g) The Civil Procedural Rules Committee shall reexamine the 2022 rule amendments two years after their effective date.

Two years after the effective date was January 1, 2025. It is almost November 2025 and neither the general assembly nor the public know anything about the findings of the Civil Procedural Rules Committee and what, if anything, the Supreme Court intends to do to ameliorate the harsh impacts of the rescission of the medical liability venue rule.

I am calling on the Supreme Court to immediately inform the voters of the outcome of the Civil Procedural Rules Committee's review and what action, if any, the Supreme Court intends to take. The Supreme Court must not withhold this information until after the election.

Transparency and the credibility of the court hang in the balance. Please release this information so that Pennsylvania voters are not kept in the dark.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cris Dush", with a stylized, cursive script.

Senator Cris Dush,
Chairman, State Government Committee

cc: Justice Dougherty
Justice Donohue
Justice Wecht
Justice Mundy
Justice Brobson
Justice McCaffrey