



# News Release

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NAIC Adopts Med Mal Report**

ANCHORAGE, AK (September 12, 2004) — During its 2004 Fall National Meeting here, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) today adopted the Medical Malpractice Insurance Report prepared by the NAIC Property and Casualty Committee.

Upon studying the most recent and comprehensive data available concerning the various medical malpractice markets, the report's primary conclusion is that there is insufficient data available to categorically determine what is driving the cost of coverage to health care providers.

The report agrees with conclusions reached in a 2003 General Accounting Office study, which states, in part: "[A] lack of necessary data has hindered...the efforts of Congress, state regulators and others to carefully analyze the problem and the effectiveness of the solutions that have been tried."

"More than anything, this document is evidence that medical malpractice is an extremely complicated matter that is very challenging to qualify and quantify," said Texas Insurance Commissioner José Montemayor, who also chairs the NAIC Property and Casualty Committee. "It is a product that varies greatly from state to state and calls for different solutions based on local market circumstances. Of course, we are not going to leave it at that and walk away. Rather, we have a great deal of work ahead of us, and it requires a continued commitment by each state to gather information in the future that will allow us to better understand market dynamics."

While the report recommends that the NAIC assist states in taking steps to assure that appropriate data is collected in the future so suitable determinations can be made, it makes no formal recommendations at this time related to the adoption of tort reforms or other specific improvements.

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### **About the NAIC**

Headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) is a voluntary organization of the chief insurance regulatory officials of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and four U.S. territories. The association's overriding objective is to assist state insurance regulators in protecting consumers and helping maintain the financial stability of the insurance industry by offering financial, actuarial, legal, computer, research, market conduct and economic expertise. Formed in 1871, it is the oldest association of state officials. For more information, visit NAIC on the Web at [www.naic.org/pressroom](http://www.naic.org/pressroom).