

JERRY F. COSTELLO

12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS  
www.house.gov/costello

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1312**

January 16, 2003

Honorable Dennis Hastert  
Speaker, U. S. House Of Representatives  
Speakers Office - H232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

Dear Mr. Speaker:

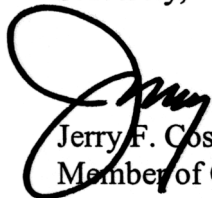
I am writing to you today regarding medical malpractice insurance rates. I agree with President Bush that this system is in crisis and is compromising access to health care in Illinois and across the country.

As you may know, doctors in the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District pay the highest malpractice insurance rates in Illinois. This fact is forcing doctors to quit practicing, or to move where they can find lower insurance rates. I believe that the House of Representatives must address this situation immediately and reform of the insurance industry must be a significant part of any legislative solution.

Insurers must be held accountable for their business decisions. Doctors and patients should not shoulder the burden of poor insurance industry business plans and the loss of investment income in recent years. Above all, we must find a way to address this problem without taking away a person's constitutional right to bring a legitimate claim before the courts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I stand ready to work with you to find a solution that will better the health care delivery system and stop the insurance industry from grossly overcharging doctors and families throughout the country. Please let me know how I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Jerry F. Costello  
Member of Congress

JFC/dg

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