

TESTIMONY OF  
ARTHUR J. GLATFELTER

BEFORE THE  
HOUSE LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1989

CHAIRMAN CALTAGIRONE, CHAIRMAN COHEN, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE LABOR RELATIONS AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEES...IT IS MY PLEASURE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOU THIS AFTERNOON [MORNING] ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF TORT REFORM. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL JUSTICE COALITION AND A CONCERNED CITIZEN AND BUSINESSMAN, I HAVE SPENT THE BETTER PART OF \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS TRYING TO REFORM OUR CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

BEFORE YOU ARE 7 BILLS DEALING WITH VARIOUS REFORMS TO THIS SYSTEM. THE CIVIL JUSTICE COALITION AND ITS 1,000+ MEMBERS ENDORSE AND SUPPORT THESE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES. NOT BECAUSE WE FEEL THE SYSTEM NEEDS DISSOLVED BUT BECAUSE WE FEEL IT NEEDS FINE-TUNING. WHAT IS PROPOSED IS NOT, IN OUR ESTIMATION, A RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM CURRENT LAW. THE PROPOSALS WILL:

1. CONTINUE TO INSURE LEGITIMATE AND PROPER RIGHTS OF PERSONS WHO SUFFER FROM WRONGFUL OR CARELESS ACTS OF OTHERS;
2. ENSURE FAIRNESS WITHIN THE SYSTEM;
3. ELIMINATE FEARS THAT PLAGUE THE MEDICAL PROFESSION;
4. ALLEVIATE THE PRACTICE OF MAKING ANYONE PAY FOR ALL DAMAGES EVEN IF THEY ARE ONLY SLIGHTLY RESPONSIBLE;
5. PERMIT WRONGDOERS TO BE PENALIZED AND PUNISHED;

6. ENABLE OUR BUSINESSES TO DEVELOP NEW PRODUCTS AND  
DEVISE NEW TECHNIQUES;

IN SHORT, IF THE BILLS ARE ENACTED INTO LAW, THEY WILL  
INJECT PREDICTABILITY AND BALANCE BACK INTO THE SYSTEM.  
THEY WILL HELP FOSTER A SENSE OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION OR INACTION.

THE PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL JUSTICE COALITION IS A  
BROAD-BASED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING ASSOCIATIONS,  
BUSINESSES, CITIZENS, LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERS, AND  
PROFESSIONAL GROUPS WHO ACTIVELY SUPPORT TORT REFORM. THEIR  
INVOLVEMENT IS INDICATIVE OF THE PERVASIVE AND EVER-GROWING  
DESIRE FOR SOME "SENSE" TO BE PUT BACK INTO A SYSTEM WHICH  
NO LONGER EXHIBITS ANY.

ON THEIR BEHALF, I URGE YOUR SUPPORT AND FAVORABLE  
ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 916 AND HOUSE BILLS 1436 THROUGH 1440.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION. I WOULD NOW  
LIKE TO INTRODUCE DONALD TORTORICE, AN ATTORNEY AND A BOARD  
MEMBER OF THE CIVIL JUSTICE COALITION, TO ADDRESS EACH BILL  
TO OUTLINE THEIR GENERAL AND PARTICULAR PROVISIONS.