

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 22nd , 2005
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Bill Threatens Victims Day in Court

Press Conference with Victims of Medical Malpractice

Press Conference: Friday, April 22nd , 11am - AkPIRG Office

507 E Street, Suite 213, Anchorage

The Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AkPIRG) and the AARP will hold a press conference to raise awareness of the dangers of SB 67 - a bill that would cap non-economic damages in personal injury or wrongful death cases against health care providers at \$250,000, even in cases where patients are injured or killed by medical providers who are negligent or reckless.

Three victims of medical negligence will be on hand to explain why Alaskans should oppose the legislation.

“Roughly 195,000 people die because of medical mistakes each year and they deserve access to the justice system,” stated Steve Cleary of AkPIRG. “Insurance rates are not going to go down and people who are injured or killed by medical errors are not going to be compensated fairly for their loss,” Cleary added.

“AARP is concerned about any bill that pits lawyers against physicians and insurance companies. We think the Legislature ought to be looking at recommendations of the Institute of Medicine that try to reduce medical errors, not point the finger of blame. Fair compensation and fewer errors, we can all look on that as progress,” said Pat Luby, Advocacy Director of AARP Alaska.