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# OKLAHOMA CENTER for CONSUMER & PATIENT SAFETY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **RECENT REPORT FROM DOCTOR'S INSURANCE COMPANY UNDERMINES CLAIMS FOR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE REFORM**

Tulsa, OK – Physicians Liability Insurance Company (PLICO), the largest malpractice insurance provider in the state, and itself owned by the Oklahoma Medical Association, announced it had beat financial projections by 1 ½ years accumulating \$142 million dollars in premiums. In a newsletter released by PLICO, they described their financial condition as “stronger and more stable than it has ever been.”

“This severely undermines claims by legislative leaders Co-President Pro Tempore Coffee and Speaker Cargill that medical malpractice reform at the expense of patient’s rights is needed,” says Center for Consumer and Patient Safety Executive Director Hugh M. Robert. “Just last session both Coffee and Cargill helped pass Senate Bill 507 which would have devastated a patient’s ability to hold negligent doctors and hospitals accountable, claiming there was a medical malpractice crisis in Oklahoma. Now we learn that the biggest malpractice insurer in the state is making money hand over fist. Thankfully Governor Henry saw through the rhetoric and vetoed SB 507.”

PLICO provided additional evidence against its own case by reporting that they had tried ten cases for PLICO insured doctors so far this year with all receiving a defense verdict. “So much for the argument that juries are out of control in Oklahoma” said Hugh Robert. “We have said it before and we’ll say it again. Oklahoma juries are conservative and fair to both sides. The civil justice system in Oklahoma works.”

### **About the Oklahoma Center for Consumer and Patient Safety**

The Center is a non-profit consumer and patient advocacy organization whose mission is to produce and disseminate timely and informative analysis and information on public policy issues which impact consumer and patient safety. For more information on the Oklahoma Center for Consumer and Patient Safety, please call 800-994-6025 or visit [www.okccps.org](http://www.okccps.org).

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