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January 19, 2006

Frank Fusco
Executive Director
South Carolina Budget and Control Board
Office of the Executive Director
612 Wade Hampton Building
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Frank,

We have calculated the increase in the limit on compensation for noneconomic damages on a medical malpractice claim. Pursuant to Section 15-32-220(F), the limit on civil liability for noneconomic damages on a medical malpractice claim is adjusted each fiscal year based on the increase or decrease in the ratio of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers as of December 31 of the previous calendar year. As of December 31, 2005, the Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Monthly Labor Review*, Table 37, "Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers", increased by 3.4% from a value of 190.3 in December 2004 to 196.8 in December 2005. Therefore, the limit not to exceed \$350,000 would increase to \$361,900 against a single health care provider and a health care institution for each claimant for civil liability for noneconomic damages on medical malpractice claims when final judgment is rendered. Also, the limit not to exceed \$1,050,000 would increase to \$1,085,700 for all health care providers and all health care institutions for each claimant for civil liability for noneconomic damages on medical malpractice claims. The adjusted limitations on compensation for noneconomic damages become effective upon publication in the State Register pursuant to Section 1-23-40(2).

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Gillespie".

William C. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Chief Economist

WCG/rwm