



**SOUTH CAROLINA
REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**

EDWARD B. GRIMBALL, Chairman
HOWELL CLYBORNE, JR.
EMERSON F. GOWER, JR.

FRANK A. RAINWATER
Executive Director

February 6, 2020

Frank A. Rainwater
Executive Director
South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
421 Rembert C. Dennis Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rainwater,

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. The adjustment is a cumulative index using a base year 2004. The 2004 base year was adopted to be consistent with the timing of the enacting legislation. As of December 31, 2019, the Index published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, increased by 35.0% from a value of 190.3 in December 2004 to 256.974 in December 2019. Therefore, the limit not to exceed \$350,000 would increase to \$472,625 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 \$1,417,880 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 "Robert W. Martin".

Robert W. Martin, M.A.
Chief Economist

RWM